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Bong-gate costs Phelps trip to Vancouver

MOTIVATION Michael Phelps has been taken off the roster of Vancouver's Power Within motivational seminar scheduled for March 6.

The event's Toronto-based promoter has issued a release saying the decision is based on the "widely publicized alleged use of marijuana" by the Olympic gold medallist.

The swimmer has apologized since a photo surfaced on the Internet of him with a marijuana pipe. The picture was taken at a house party last November while he visited the University of South Carolina.

The American, pictured below, who was suspended from competition for three months, returns to swimming on May 14 in Charlotte, N.C.

GETTY IMAGES

TARYN MCELHERAN /FOR METRO VANCOUVER

Riding the **Recession**

Now through the end of March, Metro will share advice on how to cut down on expenses and navigate your way through the recession.

Auto • We introduce you to some value vehicles to drive you through the economic rough spot, pg 12

KRISTEN THOMPSON/METRO VANCOUVER

Robert McMynn speaks to reporters outside B.C. Supreme Court yesterday after the three men convicted of kidnapping his son were sentenced to eight, 12 and 13 years in prison. Graham McMynn was rescued after an eight-day abduction in 2006.

8-13 yrs in McMynn case

Victim's father relieved, but feels system favours criminal

KRISTEN THOMPSON
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The three men convicted of kidnapping Graham McMynn in 2006 were given sentences in B.C. Supreme Court yesterday ranging from eight to 13 years.

Graham's father, Robert McMynn, said he's relieved the ordeal is over.

Anh The Nguyen and Jose Hernandez received 12 and 13 years respectively for kidnapping and eight years for unlawful confinement, to be served concurrently.

Sam Vu was given eight years for unlawful confinement.

They received double credit for the time they've already spent in jail, bumping five years and 38 weeks from their sentences.

McMynn was kidnapped at gunpoint from his car and held for eight days before being rescued by police.

Robert McMynn said he was worried Justice Arne Silverman was going to be more lenient, so he was happy with the sentences.

"I still feel the system favours the criminal over the victim," McMynn said.

"The sentences aren't long enough, but (Silverman) is bound by precedent."

The Crown wanted Nguyen and Hernandez to serve 18 years and Vu 10 years, but the men's lawyers pointed out they had no prior criminal records and want to go back to school.

Silverman said he had to balance aggravating factors, like the fact McMynn was threatened with death — and mitigating factors, like the suspects putting toilet paper under McMynn's blindfold to make him more comfortable — and the outcome of similar cases.

"There's not one straight line that leads to an obvious conclusion," Silverman said.

Trials

- Two other men were acquitted in the case and a youth is set for trial in March.

ShareYourViews

vancouverletters@metronews.ca

Ritz-Carlton project takes swan dive

CANCELLED A $500-million project to build a glitzy Ritz-Carlton hotel and condo in downtown Vancouver has gone belly up.

People who bought units in what would have been a twisting 60-storey tower on Georgia Street were sent a letter from lawyers representing the developer, Holborn Group, telling them the project has been cancelled.

The statement blamed the ongoing economic crisis for affecting sales and said all deposits would be refunded.

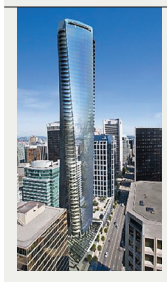
Only 62 of the 123 condo units had been sold. They were selling for between $500,000 and $28 million.

In a design similar to that of the new Shangri-La tower, the first 20 floors were to be occupied by the hotel and the other 40 floors would have been condos.

Calls to Joo Kim, director of Holborn Group, weren't returned by press time.

KRISTEN THOMPSON/ METRO VANCOUVER

Sign of the times



- The Ritz-Carlton hotel and condo tower, left, was designed by Vancouver architect Arthur Erickson.
- The project was slated for completion in 2011.

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UBC farm honoured
The UBC farm and the people who run it have been honoured with two new awards. A sustainability award was given to the farm by the Fraser Basin Council and Edible Magazine gave staff a Local Hero award. **NEWS1130.COM**

Local

The truth is out there

British Columbians reported the second highest number of UFO sightings in Canada last year, after Ontario. There were 272 sightings here, contributing to the 1,004 sighted across Canada — the highest number in 20 years, according to Winnipeg-based Ufology Research.
CBC NEWS ONLINE

Teen charged in Surrey shooting

DEATH Vancouver police have charged a teenager in connection with a high-profile home invasion and shooting on Fraser Street.

Travis Arthur Chartrand, 19, from Surrey has been charged with seven offences including robbery and break-and-enter.

Chartrand and another man, who was killed in the attempted robbery, were allegedly armed when they tried to force their way into the home on Feb. 17.

Brothers Aleem and Amir Mohammed, whose family says have no criminal connections, were watching TV at the time.

Aleem was shot and injured while Amir chased one man out of the house and wrestled a gun from the man, who died of gunshot wound after the struggle.

METRO VANCOUVER

News in brief

BODY FOUND The body of a man was found yesterday along a trail near the 29th Avenue SkyTrain station. Vancouver police said a passerby noticed the victim in some bushes around 1 p.m., and the death doesn't appear to be suspicious.

THIEF Vancouver police are asking for the public's help in finding a thief who targets the elderly. Tracy Lloyd Caza, 48, is wanted for breach of probation. Police said the thief deceives his victims — often in the hospital — to gain their trust and then rob them of cash and valuables.

OUTRAGE More than 300 people showed up at a community meeting in Burnaby to voice outrage about a provincial proposal to build the new Lower Mainland Pretrial Centre on Willingdon Avenue, CBC News Online reports. Residents said they should have been consulted.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

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WHAT'S ONLINE TODAY

Video Police officials insist Tasers are safe, but admit they are overused at **metronews.ca/canada**

Video Mario Dumont steps down as head of ADQ amid lingering regrets at **metronews.ca/canada**

Dziekanski's death 'terrible'

JEFF HODSON
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A Mountie who confronted Robert Dziekanski at Vancouver's airport said he regrets the Polish immigrant died, but said he doubts he would have done anything differently.

RCMP Const. Gerry Rundel told the Braidwood Inquiry yesterday that Dziekanski's death was a "terrible outcome" and one that was never intended.

"There have been a lot of people, a lot of agencies, that have dealt with Mr. Dziekanski right from the time he left Poland," Rundel said. "I'm sure there isn't one person that's looking back and wondering if they could have done something differently.

"With the limited information we had, I can't say that we could have done anything differently."

The 40-year-old Polish immigrant died at YVR in the early morning hours of Oct. 14 following a confrontation with four officers in which he was Tasered multiple times.

JEFF HODSON/METRO VANCOUVER

RCMP Const. Gerry Rundel is seen on a video screen set up for media covering his testimony at the Braidwood Inquiry into the death of Polish immigrant Robert Dziekanski in Vancouver yesterday.

The Mounties arrived at the scene armed with faulty data from their dispatcher, including incorrect information that Dziekanski was intoxicated and was throwing chairs through glass windows.

Earlier in the day, Walter Kosteckyj, the lawyer for Dziekanski's mother, questioned Rundel on why, if there were four officers, one of them didn't call for an interpreter or talk to witnesses to find out what occurred before their arrival.

Rundel said if the opportunity and the time had been available the proper information would have been gathered, but events "happened very quickly."

Kosteckyj also wanted to know why no warning was given before the Taser was fired.

Rundel admitted that a warning should have been given, had there been time, but added every situation was different.

"There was no time," Rundel said. "I feared for my safety … due to the fact that it happened so fast, that Mr. Dziekanski went from resistant to combative with an object, a stapler in his hands. We acted and responded appropriately in that situation."

Rundel's cross-examination continues today. He will be followed by the other three Mounties.

Deck structure complete on Golden Ears Bridge

CROSSING A major construction milestone was achieved yesterday as crews completed the deck structure of the Golden Ears Bridge.

The span, which will cross the Fraser River and link Maple Ridge and Pitt Meadows to Langley and Surrey, is on schedule to open to traffic by June 30.

The area is currently served by the Albion Ferry.

"The bridge will improve travel times for people, goods and services across the Fraser River, will reduce regional congestion, and will open up access to markets, services, facilities and recreational opportunities," TransLink CEO Tom Prendergast said of the $808-million structure.

SUBMITTED

A section of the under-construction Golden Ears Bridge is seen in this July 2008 photo.

The bridge will be paid for by tolls collected electronically, which will allow drivers to cross the bridge without slowing down. Each lane of traffic will be equipped with electronic sensors and cameras as part of Western Canada's first electronic tolling system called QuickPass.

Vehicles equipped with transponders will automatically be recorded, while photos will be taken of the licence plates of cars without the devices and their owners will be charged through mail invoices.

METRO VANCOUVER

Trans-Canada Trail may cross bridge

REROUTING A section of the Trans-Canada trail is likely to be rerouted over the Golden Ears Bridge, according to Leon Lebrun of Trails B.C., who said the span is expected to include a sidewalk.

"It's going to create a great connection over the Fraser River," Lebrun said. "We're hoping that the new Port Mann Bridge will include a pathway as well."

Prime Minister Harper headed west to talk gun violence

POLITICS Prime Minister Stephen Harper is coming to Metro Vancouver tomorrow to discuss the growing epidemic of gang and gun violence in the region.

He'll be trading places with the province's solicitor general and public safety minister, who are scheduled to meet in Ottawa with the federal justice minister to discuss cracking down on gang violence here.

Harper

Harper's trip also comes on the heels of a visit by Federal Public Safety Minister Peter Van Loan, who declared Vancouver the gang capital of Canada.

Since the beginning of February, 13 people have been shot in the Lower Mainland and one man fell to his death from a balcony in what might have been a gang-related incident.

METRO VANCOUVER

Enforcement agencies defend use of Tasers

KRISTEN THOMPSON
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PROTECTION Police organizations in Vancouver, British Columbia and Canada defended their use of Tasers yesterday, saying the devices are a safe and vital tool for protecting officers and the public.

The statements were made as the RCMP officers involved in the Tasering of Polish immigrant Robert Dziekanski took the stand for the second day at the inquiry into his death.

While the RCMP recently tightened its rules around Taser use, including its guidelines regarding use against acutely agitated suspects, other police forces are still defending their usage.

"The Taser … reduces the need for police to rely on higher levels of force." Tom Stamatakis

Tom Stamatakis, president of the British Columbia Police Association, released a statement saying he supports the use of the weapons "within clear guidelines."

"The Taser is an effective intermediate compliance tool that reduces the need for police to rely on higher levels of force," he said.

His statement was issued shortly after the Canadian Police Association and the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police (CACP), released a joint document supporting the use of the weapons.

Tom Kaye, spokesperson for CACP, said there's no evidence a conducted energy weapon has ever been a direct cause of death, adding they're no more likely to kill someone than pepper spray.

Vancouver Chief Const. Jim Chu echoed these sentiments, but added that, like any use of force, Tasers can cause injuries "or worse."

"Extensive training, clear tactical guidelines, compliance and equipment-testing checks can all greatly reduce that risk," he said.

WITH FILES FROM TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Oppal announces he'll run again

B.C. Attorney General Wally Oppal has announced he's running again in the upcoming provincial election. The Liberal MLA says he's deciding whether to run in the Vancouver-Fraserview riding he's represented since 2005, or seek nomination in South Delta, where he lives. **CBC NEWS ONLINE**

Local food unsung at Junos

ANYA LEVYKH
for Metro Vancouver

The Junos are all about showcasing Canadian talent — musical talent, not culinary, that is.

The 38th annual Juno Awards and the two-day musical extravaganza that is the JunoFest comes to Vancouver from March 26 to 29.

An effort has been made to ensure that about half of all artists performing at the JunoFest are local, but the same effort was not placed on the food being served at the dinner and gala set for March 28 at the Westin Bayshore Resort Hotel in Coal Harbour.

Melanie Berry, president of the Canadian Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences, said yesterday at a Juno Awards tasting event that the event's location was carefully selected.

As for the food?

"We initially started with the 100-mile radius for food," Berry said. "Except where our footprint would be smaller if we went outside of that radius."

> **"We initially started with the 100-mile radius for food."**
> Melanie Berry

Turns out, almost everything being served is outside of the radius. The wine poured will be Little Black Dress of California thanks to sponsorship agreements with a major distributor. The beef will be from Alberta, and the salmon will be from "somewhere in the Pacific Northwest."

There are, however, Dungeness crab cakes. Heck, if the official "Canadian" wine of the Olympics can be some Chilean plonk that is only "cellared" in Canada, this seems positively Canuck, eh?

ANYA LEVYKH/FOR METRO VANCOUVER

Westin Bayshore executive sous chef Joe Campo and CARAS president Melanie Berry toast the arrival of the Juno Awards to Vancouver at a tasting event yesterday.

Number of EI recipients in B.C. up 33%

TARYN MCELHERAN
for Metro Vancouver

Evidence that British Columbia has been hard-hit by the poor economy continues to mount as the province led Canada with a 33 per cent increase in people receiving Employment Insurance last December compared to the same time in 2007.

In all, 49,790 British Columbians are unemployed and receiving the assistance, according to Statistics Canada.

Alberta was second with a 30 per cent increase in EI recipients, followed by Ontario at 29.6 per cent.

Across Canada, 538,200 people collect EI, with the number of men receiving benefits rising by just under 22 per cent and the number of women increasing by nine per cent.

Expect snow today on the mountains

TARYN MCELHERAN
for Metro Vancouver

WEATHER It's the forecast drivers have been dreading and ski resorts have been waiting for: Snow is expected today.

It won't be much in Vancouver where it's expected to fall only in the higher areas, according to Environment Canada. At local mountains, where runs have been icy lately, it'll be a welcome event.

Squamish and parts of Whistler are expecting five to 10 centimetres and the Fraser Valley, including Chilliwack, is also likely to see some of the white stuff.

METRO VANCOUVER

News in brief

FINES A Vancouver man has been told to pay $4,000 for hunting a mule deer buck and a white-tailed doe. A judge yesterday fined Lei Chen $300 and ordered him to pay $3,700 to the Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation. His rifle, valued at $2,500, was forfeited to the B.C. government. The charges were laid after Chen shot both deer with a rifle during archery-only season in the Osburn area, approximately 100 kilometres north east of Fort St. John. In 2008, the Conservation Officer Service issued 2,103 tickets and had 37 court convictions that resulted in more than $700,000 in fines.

DEFICIT Vancouver Coastal Health is projecting a deficit, according to its service plan released yesterday. The NDP says that more funding is needed to offer more mental health services.

LIQUOR NDP critic Mike Farnworth says the provincial Liberals were "underhanded" to raise the price of liquor without mentioning the plan in last week's budget announcement, news1130.com reports. In April, the price of a 750-millilitre bottle of liquor will go up $1. Larger bottles will cost $2 more.

METRO VANCOUVER

Charges laid after horses abandoned

ANIMALS The owner of two horses found near the B.C.-Alberta border two months ago has been charged with three counts of animal cruelty, the B.C. SPCA said yesterday.

Frank Mackay, from Edmonton, allegedly abandoned his three-year-old mare Belle and 14-year-old gelding Sundance near McBride, west of Prince George. It took volunteers a week to shovel a one-kilometre trench through the snow to save the animals, which were malnourished and suffering from exposure.

"We placed the horses in temporary foster care where they received ongoing veterinary care until they were ready to be adopted," said Shawn Eccles, the B.C. SPCA's chief animal protection officer. They have since been found permanent homes.

Mackay makes his first court appearance on June 12. If convicted, he faces a maximum fine of $10,000, up to five years in jail and a ban on owning animals.

KRISTEN THOMPSON / METRO VANCOUVER

6-in-1 vaccine for babies available

HEALTH A new six-in-one vaccine for infants is now available, the province announced yesterday.

Infanrix-hexa, which is only available in B.C., protects against diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, polio, Haemophilus influenza type B, and hepatitis B.

In addition to fewer injections, combination vaccines help improve vaccine uptake, reduce the costs of stocking and administration of different vaccines, and reduce the costs of extra visits to a health-care provider. METRO VANCOUVER

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Fake calls prompt arrest

A 62-year-old Winnipeg woman has been charged after hundreds of false 9-1-1 calls were allegedly made over a one-year period, CBC.ca reports. Joyce Prins is accused of making more than 300 calls to the emergency service between Jan. 1 and Dec. 31, 2008. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Canada

Klein wins Brit book award

Canadian journalist Naomi Klein has won Britain's inaugural Warwick Prize for Writing for The Shock Doctrine, her acclaimed investigation into neoliberal economics, which she calls "disaster capitalism." The 2007 book argues that governments and companies use natural disasters or man-made shocks like the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, to push through corporate-friendly policies. REUTERS

Coroner would share child info

ADVOCACY The chief coroner's office is willing to provide Ontario's child advocate with detailed information on the 90 deaths of children in the child welfare system in 2007, with names removed to protect privacy. Laws prohibit the coroner from releasing background reports on these deaths, said Dr. Bert Lauwers, the deputy chief coroner.

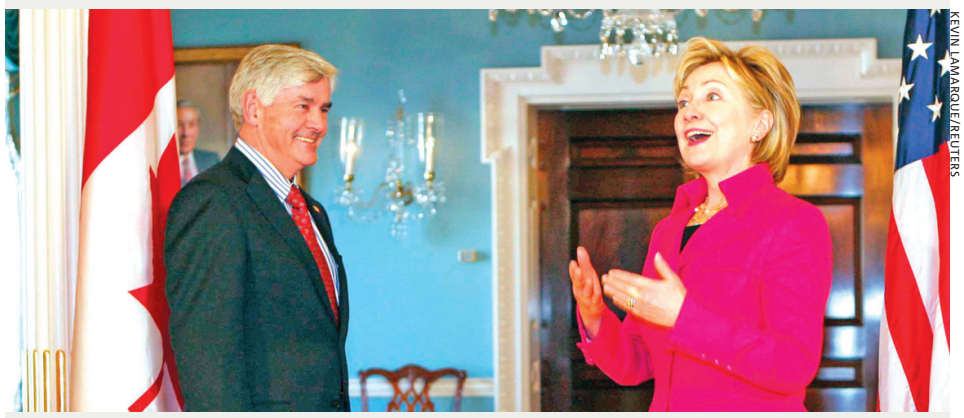
TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

News in brief

COURTS The Ontario government heads to court today in a legal battle with SARS victims, who argue the province placed concerns about tourism and the economy ahead of eradicating the deadly disease. SARS killed 44 people, all in the Greater Toronto Area.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Foreign Relations **Cannon speaks on Afghanistan**



KEVIN LAMARQUE/REUTERS

U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton meets with Foreign Minister Lawrence Cannon at the State Department in Washington yesterday. Cannon stressed the importance of a civilian presence in Afghanistan to train police there.

National Geographic piece tars Alberta's oilsands

POLLUTION Images of oil-slick tailings ponds and behemoth smoke stacks from Alberta's oilsands will be viewed by roughly 10 million people around the world in a feature story inside the March edition of National Geographic.

The article refers to the mills as "dark" and "satanic," and the images show glimpses of what life's like in Alberta's once booming oilsands. One photographer captures an image of a floating radar device in a slick tailings pond, a device designed to scare away birds from landing in the toxic water. METRO CANADA

Drunk driving battle waged

The battle over whether to lower the legal limit for impaired driving is again being waged in Parliament, with even the police and some advocacy groups questioning whether it is necessary.

Emile Therien, past president of the Canada Safety Council, said yesterday the proposed initiative has more to do with law-and-order optics than actually reducing the number of drunk drivers.

"We are by far the toughest in the world because we criminalize it (impaired driving)," he said, adding that lowering the legal blood alcohol limit will only make criminals of responsible social drinkers.

"This had nothing to do with public safety. This is all optics, part of the 'tough on crime.'"

The Canada Safety Council is to make its presentation today to the all-party justice committee charged with studying whether the blood alcohol levels should be reduced to 50 milligrams per 100 millilitres of blood, from the current 80 mg.

The Conservative government's Tackling Violent Crime Act dealt in part with getting tougher on drunk drivers, but stopped short of lowering the threshold.

The NDP's justice critic, MP Joe Comartin, said he has yet to be convinced that an amendment is needed.

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Dalai Lama calls for calm at Tibetan New Year
Tibet's exiled spiritual leader the Dalai Lama urged his countrymen yesterday not to be provoked by any Chinese military crackdown coinciding with the Tibetan New Year this week. **REUTERS**

World

Gaming bad for skin?

Gamers beware: Keeping too tight a grip on the console and furiously pushing the buttons can cause a newly identified skin disorder marked by painful lumps on the palms, Swiss scientists said yesterday. Called "PlayStation palmar hidradentitis" by the scientists, the skin disorder can cause painful lesions on the palms. **REUTERS**

Mountains found in South Pole ice

Jagged mountains the size of the Alps have been found entombed in Antarctica's ice, giving new clues about the vast ice sheet that will raise world sea levels if even a fraction of it melts, scientists said yesterday.

Using radar and gravity sensors, the experts made the first detailed maps of the Gamburtsev subglacial mountains, originally detected 50 years ago by Russian scientists at the heart of the East Antarctic ice sheet.

"The surprising thing was that not only is this mountain range the size of the Alps, but it looks quite similar to the Alps, with high peaks and valleys," said Fausto Ferraccioli, a geophysicist at the British Antarctic Survey who took part in the research.

He said that the mountains would probably have been ground down almost flat if the ice sheet had formed slowly. But the presence of jagged peaks might mean the ice formed quickly, burying a landscape under up to four kilometres of ice.

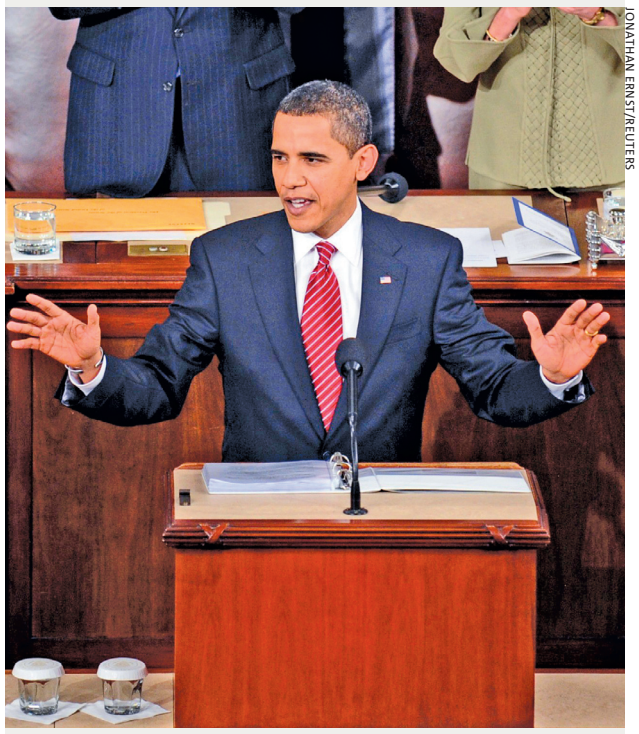
Ferraccioli said the maps were "the first page of a new book" of understanding how ice sheets behave, which in turn could help predict how the ice will react to global warming.

REUTERS

Sea levels

- Antarctica has enough ice to raise world sea levels by about 57 metres if it ever all melted, so even a fractional melt would affect coasts around the globe.

Obama **Addressing the nation**



JONATHAN ERNST/REUTERS

U.S. President Barack Obama gives his prime-time address to a joint session of Congress on Capitol Hill in Washington yesterday. Obama pressed the case for his economic plans, which include ending tax breaks for corporations that send U.S. jobs overseas and possibly setting aside even more money for debt-laden banks, which the Federal Reserve said earlier yesterday should be able to survive without being nationalized.

Murdoch apologizes for chimp cartoon

MEDIA New York Post chairman Rupert Murdoch apologized in print yesterday for a cartoon that ignited protests from readers who saw it as a racist depiction of U.S. President Barack Obama as a chimpanzee.

In an article headlined Statement from Rupert Murdoch on Page 2 of the New York Post, Murdoch said the Feb. 18 cartoon was a mistake.

"I promise you that we will seek to be more attuned to the sensitivities of our community," wrote Murdoch, head of media giant News Corp., which owns the Post.

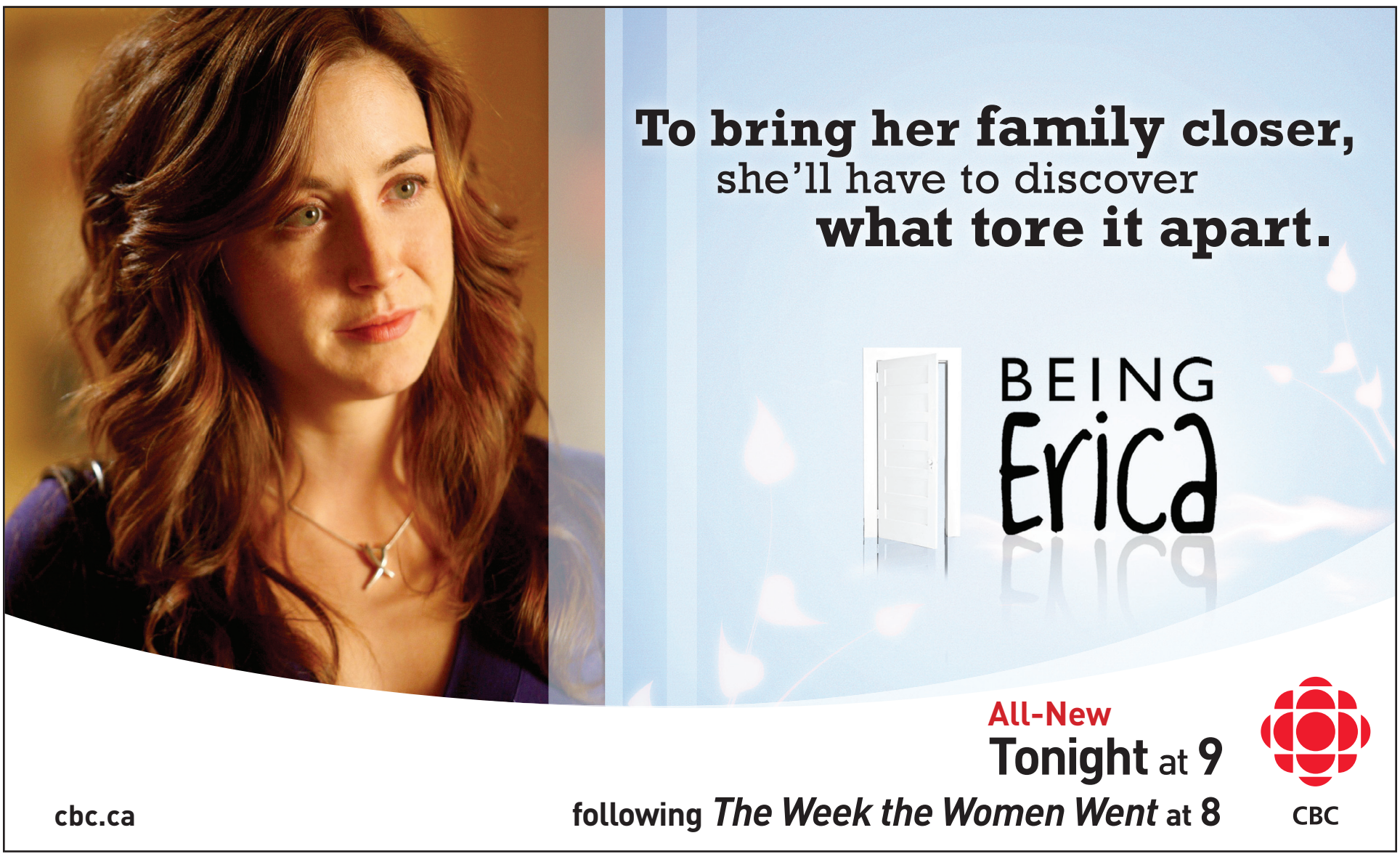
The cartoon of a policeman shooting an ape played on the real shooting of a pet chimpanzee in Connecticut. **REUTERS**

News in brief

MURDER Russian state prosecutors vowed yesterday to catch those responsible for the murder of journalist Anna Politkovskaya despite a court's acquittal last week of the only three people who have so far charged in the 2006 murder case.

MUMBAI Militants behind last year's attacks on Mumbai, India, used cellphones activated in the United States and paid for with funds sent from Italy, an Italian newspaper reported yesterday.

METRO NEWS SERVICES



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Comment & Views

Comment

Support speech freedom

Everyone has the right — even if you don't agree

TheWestView

Paul Sullivan
Journalist & Media Consultant

Do you believe in freedom of speech? Of course you do. It's the cornerstone of our democracy. It's etched in the Charter of Rights and Freedoms: "Everyone has the following fundamental freedoms ... b) freedom of thought, belief, opinion and expression, including freedom of the press and other media of communication."

Pay attention, freedom lovers. Just because it's in the charter, don't believe everything you read.

What if I asked the question this way: Do you believe in freedom of speech for David Ahenakew? He's the Saskatchewan aboriginal leader who was first convicted, then acquitted, of spreading hate for expressing the following opinion:

"The Jews damn near owned all of Germany prior to the war. That's how Hitler came in. He was going to make damn sure that the Jews didn't take over Germany or Europe. That's why he fried six million of those guys, you know. Jews would have owned the God-damned world."

When he was acquitted Monday, the B'nai Brith said the verdict is inexcusable, and that Canadian hate crime legislation needs to be reviewed, i.e. strengthened.

David Ahenakew

Of course there are numerous human rights tribunals that could still discipline Ahenakew. B.C.'s code, for example, says simply that a person must not publish or cause to be published anything that discriminates against a person or group, or exposes them to hatred or contempt. Under B.C.'s code, it would be much easier to find Ahenakew guilty.

I could ask the question this way: Do you believe in freedom of speech for The Ottawa Citizen? The paper was found guilty of libelling a former cop, Danno Cusson, who took it upon himself to go to New York in the wake of 9-11 with his dog, trying to free trapped survivors. The Citizen called it an ill-conceived misadventure; Cusson was offended and sued — and was awarded $125,000 by a jury.

Now it's before the Supreme Court of Canada, where media lawyers are pleading for libel laws to be liberalized. Obviously, we do not really believe in freedom of speech. Instead we argue about it. Sometimes restrictions seem to make sense; who wants some guy going around the country spewing hateful lies about Jews? In others, we're not so sure. To shut a reporter up, should all you have to do is sue for libel? Not a good idea if we want the truth to emerge.

Here's the thing. If we believe in "freedom" we have to tolerate lies as well as truth, errors as well as accuracy. Freedom of speech protects us all from the consequences of our utterances and idiotic notions. Freedom of speech is clear: If you think it, you can say it.

So one more time, do you still believe in freedom of speech? For me, the answer is still — and always will be — yes.

Paul Sullivan is a Vancouver-based journalist and owner of Sullivan Media Consulting.

MICHAEL DE ADDER

Word on the street: What are you planning to do with your tax return? Splurge or save? And why?

Diana Iakossavas
age 24, Toronto
A: I'll probably put it into my savings. That's what I usually do with government cheques. To me, it's extra money, so I just throw it in my savings.

Ashleigh Bachand
age 18, Edmonton
A: I am going to save it because I am going to California. I guess I am going to save it, then splurge it.

Soumen Sengupta
Halifax, N.S.
A: I'm going to save the money. I have to save for the future, it's pretty difficult right now.

Jennifer Fast
age 24, Calgary
A: Save it. Mine would probably go to savings towards school ...or paying off my student loans.

Mohammad Hamdan
age 33, Edmonton
A: I am going to save it because the economy is not doing very good these days.

Linda van der Vaart
age 24, Calgary
A: I'm not getting anything back (but if I did) I would save it.

Worth Mentioning

Jobless man asks to go back to prison

ECONOMY A jobless Taiwan man released from prison two years ago asked police to send him back so he could eat, police and local media said yesterday, a grim sign of hard economic times on the island.

When police found the 45-year-old convicted arsonist lying on a street in a popular Taipei shopping district, he requested a return to life behind bars, nostalgic for the 10 years he had already served, the China Post newspaper reported.

He had also contacted police separately with his request, a spokesman said. Officers who found him bought him a boxed lunch but declined to send him back to prison, the police spokesman said.

"We advised him to keep looking for work," he said. "I don't know why he can't find a job. Maybe employers think he's not suitable or that he's too old."

Taiwan is in recession, with a slump in exports leading a record economic contraction in the fourth quarter of last year. Economists see more weakness through most of 2009, given falling demand for Taiwan's goods. REUTERS

Metro Online Poll Results

37% SAID YES

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Stars show support for Live Nation, Ticketmaster union
Rock stars such as Seal, Van Halen and Shakira gave their support to Live Nation Inc.'s planned acquisition of Ticketmaster Entertainment Inc. ahead of a U.S. antitrust hearing yesterday. REUTERS

Business

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EDITOR: FERMIN.DESOUZA@METRONEWS.CA

Weston reports big gain

PROFIT George Weston Ltd. plans to sit on a mounting cash pile and wait for the right time to invest, the company said yesterday after reporting a large gain from the sale of its Canadian dairy business, which boosted its quarterly results.

Weston, North America's largest baked goods maker, owns Loblaw Cos. Ltd. It said its profit rose to $404 million, or $3.05 a basic share, in the fourth quarter from $151 million, or $1.07 a basic share, in the year-earlier period.

The results included a $335 million pretax gain from the sale of Weston's Neilson Dairy division. It said a $800 million US gain from the sale of its U.S. bakery division to Mexico's Grupo Bimbo would be included in its first-quarter results.

The two deals have boosted the company's cash holdings to between $3.5 billion and $4.0 billion.

REUTERS

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Web throttling targeted

Coalition says shaping Internet traffic threatens innovation

A group of more than 75 web-focused companies and organizations, including Google, eBay and Amazon, are calling on Canadian regulators to develop a "nuanced" approach when it comes to the thorny issue of phone and cable companies who manage Internet traffic on their networks.

"The best ways for ISPs to deal with congestion in their networks is to invest in bigger, faster, open networks."
Jacob Glick, policy counsel for Google Canada

In filings this week to the CRTC in advance of a July probe into Internet traffic management, the Open Internet Coalition rejected the suggestion put forward by Bell Canada Inc. and Rogers Communications Inc. that certain bandwidth-intensive applications need to be actively managed to prevent them from bogging down the Internet.

Bell and Rogers currently use software to sniff out mainly peer-to-peer file-sharing protocols and put them in the equivalent of an Internet slow lane during peak usage periods.

Jacob Glick, the policy counsel for Google Canada, said the unnecessarily blunt approach threatens to render a whole segment of current and future web applications unworkable.

"The evidence suggests that the best ways for ISPs to deal with congestion in their networks is to invest in bigger, faster, open networks," said Glick.

"And while we also recognize that sometimes ISPs will need to traffic over their networks, you can't do that in a manner that's specific to certain applications or content. When you do that, you undermine innovation online."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Maple Leaf recalls more products

LISTERIA Maple Leaf Foods recalled more meat products yesterday over concerns of listeria bacteria, the same day that it reported a smaller quarterly loss of $14.6 million and said the worst of a costly listeria-related recall last summer was behind it.

The company announced a voluntary recall of 1,100 cases of its Shopsy's All Beef Frankfurters and Maple Leaf Original Hot Dogs.

It said there had been no illness reported as a result of consumption of the products and the risk to human health is extremely low.

Last summer, contaminated deli meats from a Maple Leaf food processing plant in Toronto were linked to at least 20 deaths.

Earlier this month it reached a tentative C$25 million settlement in a series of class-action lawsuits related to the listeriosis outbreak.

REUTERS

Fashion **Show cancelled**

CHRIS HELGREN/REUTERS

Workers build an outdoor venue for shows by design labels Just Cavalli and DSquared2 during Milan fashion week yesterday. Cavalli has cancelled his catwalk show for his Just Cavalli brand just two days before it was due to run, following difficulties at its distributor, Italian manufacturer Ittierre.

In **brief**

MARKETS U.S. stocks rose yesterday as investors snapped up shares in beaten-down sectors, including financials, a day after Wall Street skidded to a 12-year low. The S&P 500 index held a slight edge above its November low, as JPMorgan, up three per cent, and Citigroup, up almost five per cent, led a rebound in financial shares.

EARNINGS Thomson Reuters Corp. posted a stronger-than-expected quarterly profit of $656 million US, raised its dividend, and said it expected revenue to grow in 2009 despite job cuts and reduced spending among its customers. The news and financial data publisher saw its shares rise as much as 6.5 per cent on the result.

SEVERANCE Microsoft Corp. has dropped an attempt to recoup some severance money from 25 recently fired workers it mistakenly overpaid. The Redmond, Washington-based company, which announced a plan to cut up to 5,000 jobs in January, acknowledged on Sunday that it had tried to get the overpaid workers to return the extra money.

REUTERS

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Bedard back on the hill
Seattle Mariners' Canadian lefty Erik Bedard allowed only a ground ball single during a scoreless inning in an intrasquad game yesterday. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

Sports

EDITOR: JOHN.CHICK@METRONEWS.CA

CHRISTINNE MUSCHI/REUTERS

Mats Sundin falls to the ice with Montreal's Josh Gorges as he makes a shot on Jaroslav Halak.

Habs blank Canucks

NHL RESULT

Canucks 0 **Canadiens** 3

VS

SCOTT RINTOUL
for Metro Vancouver

THE SKINNY: Thomas Plekanec scored on a first-period breakaway and Jaroslav Halak made 34 saves for his first shutout of the season as the Canadiens defeated the Canucks for the first time since Nov. 30, 2000. Andrei Markov's power-play marker and Maxim Lapierre's empty netter rounded out the scoring for a Habs team that won in consecutive games for the first time since mid-January.

THE TURNOVER: Kyle Wellwood was stripped of the puck on a late first period power play, resulting in what proved to be the game-winning goal by Plekanec.

THE STAR: Goaltending problems? What goaltending problems? Halak was outstanding between the pipes for the home side, robbing Mats Sundin on a pair of goal-mouth opportunities and stymying Henrik Sedin on a second-period breakaway.

THE HOMECOMING: Things didn't go so well for Alex Burrows. After failing to convert on the type of scoring chance he has been burying of late, the Montreal native was tossed after taking a five minute major for cross checking. The Habs scored the 2-0 goal on the ensuing power play.

THE RATING: An extremely entertaining game from start to finish. Energy, chances and an in-arena buzz that oozed through the LCD. 5 out of 5 stars.

THE NEXT GAME: Vancouver returns home to face the Tampa Bay Lightning on Friday night at the Garage.

Under-20 and a catch-22

JustSoccer

Ben Rycroft
ben.rycroft@metronews.ca

Perhaps it's a no win situation. This week, the Canadian Soccer Association announced its roster for the run up to the Under-20 World Cup in Egypt this fall.

Either by design or by default, players professionally trained in Canada will represent half of this year's roster — a trend starkly different in years past, when players with a European pedigree were given the nod.

It's a testament to the growing soccer infrastructure here as clubs like Toronto FC, the Montreal Impact and the Vancouver Whitecaps are having an ever-growing influence on developing talent.

Vancouver alone speaks for seven of the players on this year's squad — and for good reason. Their professional development program — widely considered one of the best in North America — begins as early as 11 for some athletes and combines development programs, a residency system with scholarships and two tiers of professional ranks.

But, if the Whitecaps get their wish and join the MLS in 2011, it may all be for naught.

As it stands now, the MLS has a very backward approach to player development.

Teams are encouraged to have academies and produce their own talent, but it was only last year when they were allowed to begin signing those players to contracts — and MLS rules state a team can only sign one academy player every three years.

If Vancouver gets in, their residency could take a big hit as players see their prospects of joining the local professional ranks dry up. That could mean a return of less locally-groomed talent in Canada.

The good news is: With the MLS expanding to 18 teams by 2011, teams will need to start signing development players to accommodate the demand.

The bad news is: As it stands now, not one team in the MLS has signed a player from their academy.

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Metro Drive

Pet choice

U.S. pet safety advocacy group Bark Buckle UP has given the GMC Acadia its Pet Safe Choice Award for 2009, Canadian Driver reports. The Acadia was named for its standard third-row bench seating for restraining pets and ample room behind the seats for pet crates, among other features.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

EDITOR: KUMAR SAHA, KUMAR.SAHA@METRONEWS.CA

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MARK ATKINSON
for Metro Canada

What better way to ride out the recession than in a new set of wheels. While we're not trying to sound glib about the whole mess, if you're one of the lucky ones in a position to buy a new car, truck or crossover, this is probably the best time in decades to go shopping.

Here are Metro Drive's Top 10 value choices spread over a few categories to help point you in the right direction.

(Above) The Toyota Yaris offers great mileage and durability in the small hatchback category; (top right) the Nissan Versa is one of the least-expensive cars currently available in the market; and the Jeep Patriot may be an inexpensive SUV but it's got enough oomph to impress a date.

SMALL COUPE: CHEVROLET COBALT XFE ($15,300)

No one would consider the Chevrolet Cobalt to be a thrilling ride, but General Motors now offers the XFE (or eXtra Fuel Efficient) package standard on any LS model equipped with a five-speed manual transmission. Thus equipped, it gets better highway fuel mileage and more standard power than either the Honda Civic or Toyota Corolla.

SMALL SEDAN: NISSAN VERSA ($12,498)

Currently one of the least expensive new vehicles in Canada, this entry-level Versa comes only in sedan form with a smaller engine and manual transmission. Not exciting to drive, but good interior space, excellent fuel economy and luxury-car ride make it perfect for around-town shuttling.

SMALL HATCHBACK: TOYOTA YARIS ($13,315)

Only the three-door hatch qualifies for the low price, but a little more than $13,000 gets you Toyota's

Riding the **Recession**

evergreen Yaris. Not many niceties come with it, but it will sip fuel and outlast your grandchildren.

GO ANYWHERE HATCHBACK: SUZUKI SX4 JX AWD ($21,195)

For those itching to have four driven wheels at the best price, Suzuki offers its neat SX4 hatchback. While front-wheel drive models start at $17,000, you need to get a mid-level JX model for the all-wheel-drive option. For that price, you get a smartly styled, spacious, go anywhere vehicle that's solid and dependable.

WAGON: VOLKSWAGEN JETTA WAGON 2.0 TDI ($25,775)

One of the few remaining true station wagons out there, the Jetta can now be optioned with the company's brand new, ultra-clean, low-emissions turbo-diesel engine. With amazing highway economy numbers and a full-tank range of nearly 1,200 km, you could go for weeks before actually needing to find a fuel station.

LUXURY CAR: HYUNDAI GENESIS ($37,995)

Just because you can afford to buy a new BMW or Mercedes-Benz doesn't mean you should. The new Genesis luxury sedan can play with the best of the world for half the price. Powerful V6 means there's no need to drop the extra coin on the V8 model. Oh, and it's the 2009 North American and Canadian car of the year, the first time for a Korean automaker.

SMALL SUV: JEEP PATRIOT SPORT 4X4 ($18,845)

The car-based Jeep Patriot will go almost anywhere you need, getting good fuel economy in the process. Interior is much improved versus last year's, meaning you won't be embarrassed to take your date out in one.

MINIVAN: MAZDA5 ($20,195)

The six-passenger Mazda5 mini-minivan is the most fuel-efficient of the people-haulers for sale, plus it adds great looks, dual sliding doors and good road-holding abilities to the mix. Both back rows can fold flat for even more cargo-hauling flexibility.

PICKUP: FORD F-150 ($25,699)

While not much has changed externally, the new F-150 has seen thousands of modifications under the skin to help maintain its title as the best pickup truck value on the market. Much like a Swiss Army knife, this one can be built from basic to ridiculous... but even the "contractor special" regular cab short-box model is an impressive achievement.

AutoPilot

Michael Goetz

Read at metronews.ca

Hyundai Sonata one smooth operator

JIM KERR
for Metro Canada

Hyundai's Sonata is a mid-size sedan with the interior room of a full size sedan. Available in three models, prices start at $21,995 for a GL model four-cylinder and range up to $31,495 for a fully loaded Limited V6 model. The Sonata Sport is priced between these two and features a small lip spoiler, leather bolsters on the seats with cloth inserts, performance tires and sport-tuned suspension. Riding a little firmer than the GL or Limited models but with a ride still supple enough it is comfortable for all day drives.

Subtle exterior differences distinguish the three Sonata models. Sport models have five-spoke alloy wheels, while Limited models have chrome exterior door handles and bumper inserts. All share the redesigned front end, with a deeper grille, larger headlamps and a new bumper cover with larger air intake.

From the driver's seat, I recognized the new more contemporary dash design but I wasn't overwhelmed like I have been in the past with previous Sonata models.

Perhaps that is because every previous Sonata has been such a dramatic improvement over its predecessor. For 2009, changes are more subtle. The new dash layout is modern and refined. The design is clean and uncluttered, and there is added functionality too.

I loved the USB and power connection in the centre console for my iPod. I plugged in a USB memory stick with some music and the audio display instantly recognized it, provided artist and album information and allowed easy selection of songs.

On the road, the four-cylinder engine operates smoothly and quietly with fair power. The V6 engine is much quicker, especially noticeable when climbing hills or passing other cars but I could easily live with the power of the four-cylinder.

The five-speed automatic is new this year and helps performance. It shifts smoothly and the shift lever does have a manual mode if you desire a sportier feel.

The Sonata offers a quiet comfortable ride even on rough pavement and gravel roads.

2009 Hyundai Sonata

Type: Mid-size sedan
Price: $21,995 (base MSRP)
Engine: 2.4 Litre DOHC
HP: 175 at 6000 rpm
Torque: 168 lb.ft. torque at 4000 rpm

Highlights

- Modernized interior
- USB connection
- Smooth, comfortable ride

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See Dealer for details. †† Receive the following delivery allowance on the cash purchase, purchase finance or lease of the following new 2009 model vehicles: $6,000 on F-150, F-250 to F-450 (excluding Chassis Cabs), F-350 Chassis Cabs/$5,000 on Ranger Super Cab (excluding XL)/$4,250 on F-450, F-550 Chassis Cabs Diesel Engine/$4,000 on Explorer Sport Trac/$3,750 F-450, F-550 Chassis Cabs Gas Engine/$3,000 on Ranger Regular Cab & Super Cab XL. *Lease a new 2009 Ford F-150 SuperCab XLT 4X4 for a monthly payment of $399/$446/$493 per month based on a lease annual percentage rate of 4.99% and a 48-month lease from Ford Credit to qualified retail lessees, on approved credit. Not all buyers will qualify for the lowest LAPR payment. $4,100/$2,050/$0 down payment or equivalent trade, first month's payment and $0 Security Deposit required. Security Deposit may be required by Ford Credit based on customer credit terms and conditions. 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Based on 2002-2008 Fuel Consumption Guide Data published by Natural Resources Canada for the 2.3L 4 cylinder 5-speed manual transmission Ford Ranger FEL Model. ††† Estimated fuel consumption ratings based on Transport Canada approved test methods. Vehicles equipped with 5-speed manual transmission. Actual fuel efficiency may vary based on road conditions, vehicle load, certain vehicle accessories, and driving habits. ***Most 2009 Ford vehicles, excluding 2009 Model LCF, F-650 and F-750, come with a 5 year/100,000 km (whichever occurs first) Powertrain Warranty and full Roadside Assistance benefits together with a 5 year/100,000 km (whichever occurs first) Safety Restraint Warranty. In addition, on all 2009 Model F-SuperDuty vehicles equipped with the diesel engine, the Powertrain warranty is extended to 5 year/160,000 km (whichever occurs first), which equals the Diesel engine warranty. Some conditions and limitations apply. Ask your Ford of Canada dealer for complete details or call the Ford Customer Relationship Centre at 1-800-565-3673. ▼Based on Canadian Vehicle Manufacturers' Association statistical sales report, December 2008. Based on Ford branded vehicle sales from the manufacturers' month-end release December 2008. 51.3% of all new compact pick-up trucks sold in Canada in 2008 were Ford Rangers based on R.L. Polk Canada, Inc. vehicle registrations, January 2008 through December 2008. ▲Safety ratings based on Insurance Institute for Highway Safety (IIHS) 2009 Top Safety Picks and on the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's (NHTSA) historical five-star crash test ratings. Government star ratings are part of the NHTSA's New Car Assessment Program (www.safercar.gov). Dealer may sell or lease for less. Limited time offers. Offers may be cancelled or changed at any time without notice. All offers are mutually exclusive and cannot be combined. Dealership may have limited quantities. 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Metro Workology exclusive: Matters of the Heart
Don't miss Matters of the Heart, Metro's exclusive feature series in the Workology section. There are jobs to be had that focus on falling in love, falling out of love and everything in between; we will be digging up the stories for you, so check for Workology on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays and Metronews.ca/work as well.

Workology

Music marauders

McGill music students robbed of instruments: In the last six weeks, seven instruments, including a $40,000 viola, have been stolen out of the lockers of several students at McGill University's Schulich School of Music. METRO NEWS SERVICES

EDITOR: DOUGLAS.DUNLOP@METRONEWS.CA

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Revving your love life

Some businesses cater to those who have lost the spark

The key to reigniting the flame in an aging relationship is to make things uncomfortable again; furry handcuffs are a good start, says Rachel Dodds, owner of Sexy Girl Inc.

Matters of the Heart

JON TATTRIE
for Metro Canada

Bedroom boredom breaks up a lot of couples, but regaining that loving feeling can revitalize your entire relationship.

The touring trade show Everything To Do With Sex, which recently finished a London, Ont., Toronto, Halifax and Montreal circuit, is teeming with ideas on how to respark a cold fire.

Rachel Dodds, owner of Sexy Girl Inc., often gets couples coming to her for advice on rediscovering the lost magic of intimacy.

"This secret is to do something different enough that requires communication, a new level of trust and discomfort," Dodds says. Her home-party business has plenty of tricks and tools for doing that.

Speaking amid the din of dungeon whips and strip teases at the Halifax show, Dodds says at the start of a relationship, everything has the scintillating edge of newness. You don't know your partner intimately, you don't know what they're going to do, and they don't know what you're going to do.

"Make it uncomfortable again: It forces you to develop trust levels and talk about things, and really get to know each other to take it to the next level."

Dodds, who was once fired from a newspaper column for a suggestion involving a lonely man and a cantaloupe, says you will find emotions and desire you never knew you had. "You'll be like, wow, I didn't even know I wanted to do that!"

Start with a blindfold. Denied sight, your focus turns to your other senses.

"It really helps clear your mind and focus on the sensations you're feeling," Dodds says. It re-introduces the mystery of the unknown, as you can't see what's about to happen. It also distracts you from any body insecurities you have.

In light bondage, furry handcuffs take away the use of your hands, making you vulnerable. Try out a few new positions, and you'll be like teenagers again.

The sea of heads at the sex show is largely grey, and Dodds says that's great for older and younger couples.

"We find that women 49 and up are very interested in this. They have a lot more experience than all of us here running the booths," she explains.

"Make it uncomfortable again: It forces you to develop trust levels and talk about things, and really get to know each other."
Rachel Dodds

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But my mom said I'd be good at the job...

Finding a job in the current economy is no easy feat, especially if your references are less than glowing.

The Creative Group recently surveyed 250 advertising and marketing executives, asking them to describe the most unusual reference checks. Among the responses:

- "Someone used her mother as a reference; needless to say, she had not worked anywhere with her mother."
- "We learned from the reference that the woman we were interviewing liked to go barefoot all day."
- "The reference said the prospective employee had difficulty getting to work on time."
- "We talked to someone who said the applicant didn't like the industry in which she was trying to get a job."

"Job seekers need to do everything they can to line up outstanding references, especially in the current hiring environment," said Megan Slabinski, executive director of The Creative Group. "Even a subtle lack of enthusiasm on the part of a reference can work against job candidates. The best references aren't necessarily the contacts with the most impressive job titles but those who can speak persuasively about an applicant's merits."

SINGING PRAISE

The goal, of course, is for your references to sing your praises, not the other way around, as these responses indicate:

- "I checked the reference, and the fellow just started laughing. He could not believe that he was a reference."
- "The person said the candidate was hyper and off the wall."
- "The reference said the candidate fell asleep during work hours."
- "According to the reference, the candidate was very insistent on making his own schedule and rules."

REFERENCE CHOICE

Some references were quick to point out a candidate's unique qualities but may have chosen the wrong ones to emphasize. For example:

- "A reference told us the person had 17 pets that he'd need to transport."
- "A professor recommended someone who was really smart, but mentioned that the person was never seen wearing anything but flip-flops."
- "The reference went on about the candidate's favorite music, bars, social endeavors, etc."

HONEST WINNERS

Honesty is essential in the job hunt, a lesson some candidates learned the hard way. To wit:

- "The reference had never heard of the person."
- "The candidate said she'd worked for a specific agency, and we found out that she didn't."
- "I was told that the candidate didn't do the work he claimed to do during the interview."

The Creative Group offered these five tips for creating a solid reference list:

- **IDENTIFY YOUR BIGGEST FANS.** Always ask permission before using someone as a reference. Pay attention to how quickly and enthusiastically people respond to your request. This "self-reference check" can help you identify the best options.
- **BE READY TO OFFER A FEW EXTRAS.** When short-staffed, many hiring managers are pressured to move quickly, and if your contacts are unavailable, you may miss out on the job offer. Consider providing more references than are requested.
- **MAKE IT EASY ON THE EMPLOYER.** Provide clear contact information, including names, titles, daytime telephone numbers and email addresses, for your references along with a brief explanation of the nature of your relationship with each person. It's also helpful to note the best times to reach each of your contacts.
- **GIVE REFERENCES A "HEADS UP."** Each time you submit a reference list to a prospective employer, let your contacts know so they are well-prepared. Provide them with an updated copy of your resumé, and describe the company and position you have applied for, as well as the name of the person who might be calling them.
- **EXPRESS APPRECIATION.** Always thank those who agree to speak on your behalf — even if they aren't contacted by hiring managers. Also, keep them updated on the status of your job search.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

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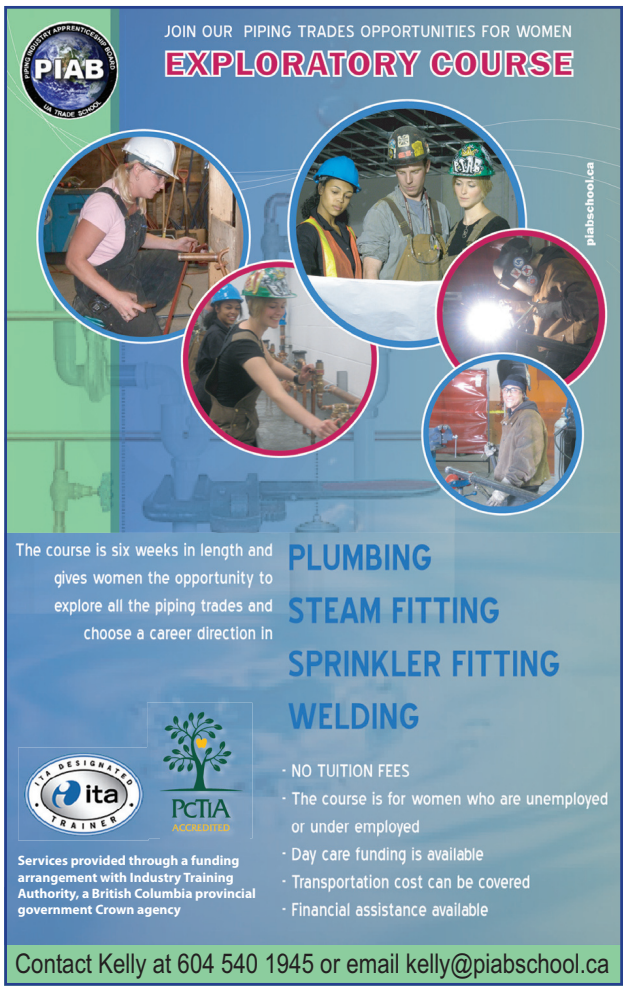

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Arctic research funding dried up
With federal funding set to expire by March of next year, the Nunavut-based Polar Environment Atmospheric Research Laboratory faces an unstable future due to lack of funding. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Workplace dating not that uncommon

A recent survey concluded that four-in-10 (40 per cent) workers reveal they have dated a co-worker at some time during their careers, with 18 per cent admitting to doing it twice or more, according to CareerBuilder.com's annual office romance survey.

More than three-in-10 (31 per cent) said they went on to marry the person they dated at work.

Office courtships may be stemming from current workplace crushes. Ten per cent of workers currently work with someone who they would like to date, with more men (14 percent) than women (five percent) reporting they would like to do so.

Workers aren't just interested in dating their peers. Among workers who dated a co-worker in the last year, 34 per cent admit they have dated someone with a higher position in their company. Of those who have dated a higher up in the last year, 42 per cent have dated their boss; female workers more so than males, at 47 per cent and 38 per cent, respectively.

"Employees spend many hours interacting with co-workers, so it's not unusual for romances to spark," said Rosemary Haefner, vice-president of human resources at CareerBuilder.com.

"While workplace relationships may be more accepted these days, with 72 per cent of workers saying they didn't have to keep their romance a secret, it's still important for workers to keep it professional and not let their relationship impact their work."

Twelve per cent of workers reported that their relationships started when they ran into each other outside of work. Some other situations where office romances found their spark included:

- Working late at the office (11 per cent)
- Happy hour (10 per cent)
- At lunch (10 per cent)

ROMANCE IN THE OFFICE

Workers provided the following top five examples of the most romantic things they have done in the office:

- 1: Had a drink together up on the roof;
- 2: Danced to the elevator music in the hallway;
- 3: Ate a late night picnic with candles after everyone had left;
- 4: After a meeting, picked up my girlfriend in a limo and proposed to her.
- 5: Left each other love post-it notes.

The survey also showed the repercussions of workplace romance, with 7 per cent of workers saying they have left a job due to an office romance.

This survey was conducted online Harris Interactive on behalf of CareerBuilder.com among 8,038 employees ages 18 and over between Nov. 12 and Dec. 1, 2008.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

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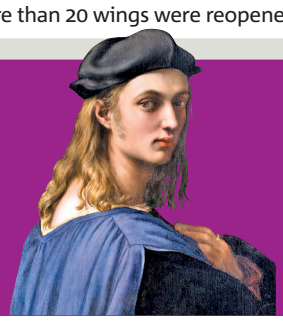
Iraq reopens National Museum
Iraq has partially reopened its National Museum, once a trove of artifacts dating back to the dawn of civilization but which was plundered after the 2003 invasion while U.S. troops stood by. Only eight of the museum's more than 20 wings were reopened. REUTERS

Travel


BOARD OF TRUSTEES, NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART, WASHINGTON

Summer blockbuster

Some of the most celebrated names in Italian art are coming to Ottawa this summer, as The National Gallery of Canada presents a world exclusive exhibit called From Raphael to Carracci: The Art of Papal Rome from May 29 to Sept. 7. Masters including Michelangelo, Salviati, Vasari, and Barocci will be strongly represented. See gallery.ca/raphael. At left, Raphael's Portrait of Bindo Altoviti, c. 1515. METRO NEWS SERVICES

TRAVELDESK@METRONEWS.CA

A little-known gem in the South Pacific

New Caledonia boasts both an exotic setting and a French pedigree

DAWN L. ROBERTSON
for Metro Canada

PETER HENDRIE/LONELY PLANET IMAGES

PETER HENDRIE/LONELY PLANET IMAGES

Left, theTjibaou Arts and Cultural Centre in Noumea, in the south province of New Caledonia. Right, a pirogue or outrigger canoe with sail near the Isle of Pines.

For years, New Caledonians have used the catch phrase "France in the Pacific" to promote their country to the international tourist market. And it's certainly that, with a mélange of fashionistas and folks clad in the casual, brightly-coloured clothing that reflects an island lifestyle.

There are inspiring landscapes and water that is as intensely turquoise as it is rich with marine wonders. But amidst the exotic setting, the country's capital city, Noumea, emits a distinctly European feel, thanks to its colonial buildings, town square, gardens, designer boutiques, patisseries and sidewalk cafes.

While Aussies, New Zealanders, the Japanese and the French have flocked to this South Pacific paradise for years, no one I knew could offer me any firsthand advice before I journeyed there myself.

In fact, I wasn't exactly certain where it was in the South Pacific. By the time I returned, however, I knew it was in a place that defines natural beauty.

New Caledonia is composed principally of the Isle of Pines, Loyalty Islands and a mainland that's divided into northern and southern provinces. The archipelago is splendidly tucked amid a trio of better-known getaways. Noumea lies about 1,970 kilometres northeast of Sydney, 1,805 kilometres northwest of Auckland and 1,300 kilometres southwest of Nadi, Fiji.

So it's a perfect stop for travellers heading to any of these more prominent destinations.

But for those into diving, there's little need to go elsewhere. The mainland is cocooned in the world's largest lagoon, with water temperatures that range from an inviting 21 to 28 C. The reef can be as close as a couple of kilometres from the coast in some spots or over 60 in others.

This magnificent marine environment bursts with fluorescent corals, sea cows, starfish, sea sponges, turtles, sea urchins and even humpback whales. So to call it an aquatic paradise understates the case somewhat.

On the web

- visitnewcaledonia.com
- Iles-loyaute.com
- tourismeprovincenord.nc/US/index.php)
- newcaledoniatourism-south.com

Upon arriving at Tontouta International, I hit the ground running. Even before I checked in at Le Meridien Noumea I took in the Tjibaou Cultural Centre.

Housing a collection of art and traditional craftwork gathered from throughout New Caledonia and the wider Pacific, this architectural masterpiece showcases the culture of New Caledonia's Kanak people via three "villages" linked by a pathway that winds through gardens along the footsteps of their mythical First Man, Tea Kanake.

After a healthy dose of local insight, I headed back to the colourful capital of Noumea, which was founded in 1854 by Tardy de Montravel, a French naval officer.

"Etched with towering Araucaria pines, aquamarine lagoons and powdery white sand beaches, it's stunning in every sense of the word."

Since then, it's been fashioned by sailors and missionaries, governed by the French military and claimed as a U.S. Army headquarters during the Second World War.

Today, this peninsula city emits a distinctive European feel with its colonial buildings, town square, gardens, markets, designer boutiques, patisseries and sidewalk cafes. For handy sightseeing, a small train makes a scenic circuit with stops at key sites between the city center and the main tourist area of Anse Vata.

Tight on time but determined to explore the southern province's interior landscapes, I opted for a highly recommended Caledonia Tours excursion to Blue River Park. Our host, Francois Tran, was perhaps the most well-versed guide I've ever encountered.

Both a gentleman and a scholar, native New Caledonian Tran shared with us the 22,350-acre forest reserve that's home to a plethora of native plants and wildlife, including the territory's rare and revered cagou birds.

Missing out on the northern province and Loyalty Islands, I did manage a day trip to the Isle of Pines — yet another good move.

This sliver of heaven that measures almost nine kilometres wide and 18 kilometres long proves once again that good things come in small packages. Even before my 20-minute Air Caledonie flight from Noumea's domestic Magenta Airport landed, it was obvious how this beauty garnered the moniker The Jewel of the Pacific.

Etched with towering Araucaria pines, aquamarine lagoons and powdery white sand beaches, it's stunning in every sense of the word. Here, I finally dove into the warm water world that surrounds this remote destination.

After an island tour, I sailed on a traditional Melanesian pirogue or outrigger, kayaked and snorkelled in a natural swimming pool at Oro Bay. If you're into aquatic bliss like I am, Isle of Pines will put you over the edge.

True to nearly everything in New Caledonia, this was yet another of those dreamy places I never wanted to leave. My only consolation was knowing I could return.

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I'll take the aisle

Mulling over the window or the aisle seat on your next flight? U.S. researchers found sitting in the aisle can help ward off potentially dangerous deep-vein thrombosis or blood clots. **REUTERS**

Putting a cork in France's wine tourism

The French wine trade fears new health rules could force vintners to keep the cork on bottles when visitors come to their cellars, dealing a serious blow to growing wine tourism by stigmatizing the beverage.

French parliament will debate early in March a proposed law that carries an article banning promotional sales of alcoholic beverages as a way of curtailing binge-drinking among youths.

The wine sector fears the cure may be worse than the disease and could lead to a ban on wine tastings at a time of limits on advertising and plans to attack Internet sales.

"It's unthinkable, it would be a disaster and many people in France could lose their job. Tastings are an integral part of promoting wine and educating people to consume with reason," said Marie-Christine Tarby, head of the Wine and Society body.

Tarby said that France was less impacted by binge-drinking than other countries and wine played no role in that phenomenon.

For many people, wine is part and parcel of French culture and history. The sector employs 340,000 people and wine is among the top 10 export revenue earners. Wine and vines are part of the attractions that make France a top world tourism destination.

Wine, cheese, baguette, beret and Eiffel Tower are among the key words that people associate with France and tourists visit vineyards and taste the wines, buying bottles to take home.

But for the health lobby, the eternal image of a Frenchman with a black beret and blue shirt sitting at a table with an open bottle of cheap wine is an outrage and outdated.

Encouraged by recent successes such as a smoking ban for restaurants and bars and advertisement restrictions, the health authorities want the French to drink less and fight alcoholism.

Alcohol was related to 22 per cent of traffic deaths in France in 2007 and is a contributing factor to heart disease. At the same time, some doctors have found that modest consumption of wine can be beneficial to hearts and health.

The wine organizations, such as those of the Burgundy or Bordeaux wine makers, have not been sitting still and are doing their bit to fight drunk-driving by handing out breathalyzers.

Any adverts promoting wine need to carry a warning urging people to consume modestly and on some wine websites it spelled out that "moderation" means a maximum of three glasses a day for a man, two for a woman, and at least one day a week without a drink. **REUTERS**

CÉDRIC HELSLY/MAISON DE LA FRANCE

A wine tasting at Sainte Roseline château in Arc sur Argens, France. French wine growers fear that attempts to limit youth access to alcohol could ensnare wine-tasting sessions as well.

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Fun Sun VACATIONS

Hilton makes citizen's arrest
Don't mess with Nicky Hilton. After being pushed to the ground by a homeless person at a West Hollywood IHOP at 5 a.m. Saturday morning, the heiress made a citizen's arrest, a Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department spokesman has confirmed. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Entertainment

TV special

MuchMusic will give youth a forum to discuss the hot button topic of abuse on MuchTalks this evening. The 30-minute special will focus on Chris Brown and Rihanna.
METRO NEWS SERVICES

EDITOR: DEAN.LISK@METRONEWS.CA

Concerts on film

Jonas Brothers project could revive genre

STEVE GOW
for Metro Canada

I'm going to come right out and say it: The Jonas Brothers may just revive the idle genre of concert movies.

Not only do I say this because the teen trio has a dedicated following of hardcore pre-pubescent fans that will undoubtedly line up endlessly to see Jonas Brothers: The 3-D Concert Experience — in theatres on Friday — but the movie itself was shot using cutting-edge effects that will surely draw those inclined to experience a cinematic rock concert in 3-D form (although U2 did it first in 2007).

While there's no doubt that today's focus in Hollywood is primarily on this new way of witnessing gigs, there were many other stunning concert films before the gimmickry of 3-D came along. While the Jonas Brothers may render the traditional concert film extinct, there are certainly some worth revisiting:

THE T.A.M.I. SHOW (1965): Filmmaker Steve Binder released what some aficionados consider the first-ever concert film. Showcasing the top acts of the day, this rare flick is perhaps most notable for a closing "battle of the bands" sequence between James Brown and The Rolling Stones.

GIMME SHELTER (1970): The Rolling Stones were also the subject of this concert film by the Maysles brothers. Chronicling the band's 1969 tour, this classic movie captured the tragic Altamont gig that ended in the brutal murder of at least one spectator. As a review in the San Francisco Chronicle stated, "few metaphors are as obvious as Altamont's for the death of the free-love '60s."

WOODSTOCK (1970): With groundbreaking appearances by Jimi Hendrix, Jefferson Airplane and Joan Baez, Woodstock is often considered the greatest concert film ever. Not only did it win an Oscar for best documentary, but it set the gold standard for the genre.

THE LAST WALTZ (1978): Martin Scorsese took it upon himself to direct The Band's farewell performance in 1976. Not only did he capture the Canadian legends' skill on stage but Scorsese gives it his visual masterstroke as well.

STOP MAKING SENSE (1983): Directed by Jonathan Demme (Philadelphia), this Talking Heads concert film is a tribute to the showmanship of the pop act behind hits like Burning Down the House. The band may have split up in 1991, but this indelible film is still a stunning work of art.

DISNEY ENTERPRISES, INC.

Jonas Brothers: The 3-D Concert Experience opens in theatres on Friday.

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Canada

Patridge's home robbed on Oscar night

Sunday was rough for Audrina Patridge — her Los Angeles home got robbed. "I had a really rough day today — I got home late last night and realized that my house had been robbed," she blogged on Monday. "It was pretty devastating." USMAGAZINE.COM

Taking it all in stylish strides

RAFAEL BRUSILOW
for Metro Canada

Project Runway Canada had its first shocker-elimination last night as Montreal designer Baylor Orlando, 37, got sent home.

Orlando had frequently garnered praise as one of the show's stronger competitors but the judges found his re-worked wedding dress, made from a sari, overly complex and unflattering.

For last night's task, the designers' usual size-zero models were swapped out for a batch of divorced women of all shapes, sizes and heights. Designers had to take the divorcees' old wedding dresses and transform them into outfits that reflected their new single life.

While Orlando's creation didn't appeal to the judges, Vancouver designer Kim Cathers' monstrous hodgepodge creation of slashed fabric and mismatched elements was horrifying even to Cathers herself and she said the dress was "ill-fitting and looked like a garbage bag."

Despite the judges all agreeing that Cathers' dress was a disaster, show host Iman convinced them she saw potential in Cathers and eventually Orlando got the boot instead.

For his part, Orlando isn't one to feel sorry for himself.

"I never like to play the victim. As a designer you have to be able to take criticism because it makes you a better designer. You have to listen to critics, learn from them and move on," Orlando said.

He is proud of the work he did on the show and says he was surprised the judges didn't like his dress because he was confident about it going into judging.

"Sometimes, something you really like, other people won't like. I love every piece I did and I have no regrets," he said.

Orlando previously designed bridal and evening gowns in his home country of Venezuela before moving to Canada to pursue his career dreams.

"I left everything behind when I moved from Venezuela to Canada — this is the country where I want to succeed," Orlando said.

Orlando currently designs handbags and accessories for a Montreal company and hopes to launch his own clothing line in the future. He says being on the show has been an amazing experience that proved he doesn't shy away from adventure.

"The show has allowed me to confirm that it's never too late to take challenges as a designer."

When to watch

- Project Runway Canada airs Tuesday nights on Global.

Baylor Orlando had frequently garnered praise as one of the show's stronger competitors.

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Ledger's last film awaits deal for U.S. release

FILM Backstage at the Oscars Sunday night, where her brother was awarded a posthumous supporting actor's award, Kate Ledger told reporters that her family is very much in the loop on his final movie.

"We've seen a little bit of the footage," she said of Terry Gilliam's The Imaginarium of Doctor Parnassus, Heath Ledger's last film. "I think it's going to be amazing."

But the comments only highlighted a larger question: When will U.S. audiences get to see it?

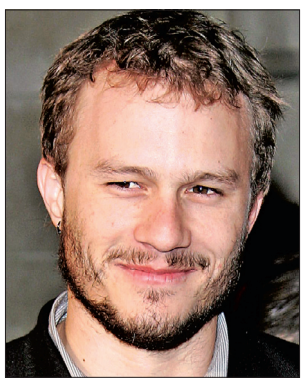
The head-trippy Parnassus, about a traveling magician who gives customers more than they bargained for, is a joint production of financial entity Grosvenor Park and sales mogul Samuel Hadida of Davis Films. It was gliding along as just another independently financed production — and product of Gilliam's funhouse imagination — when Ledger died early last year, in the middle of production.

The project's fate was thrown into question until Jude Law, Colin Farrell and Johnny Depp stepped in, with all three part of an elaborate work-around that has the actors playing different parts of Ledger's role.

That saved the production. But the sales process since then has been nearly as complicated.

A number of U.S. buyers during the summer and early fall were said to be interested in acquiring stateside rights — Lionsgate and Overture reportedly were among the potential suitors — but word of a potential deal quickly quieted down.

That has fuelled speculation concerning such matters as dissent among producers over finances. Rumours aside, the film, whose budget is thought to be upward of $20 million, does present challenges. A U.S. deal is expected shortly, with a mini-major or larger indie expected to make the play. REUTERS



The late Heath Ledger's final film, The Imaginarium of Doctor Parnassus, has yet to find a U.S. buyer.

DVD picks

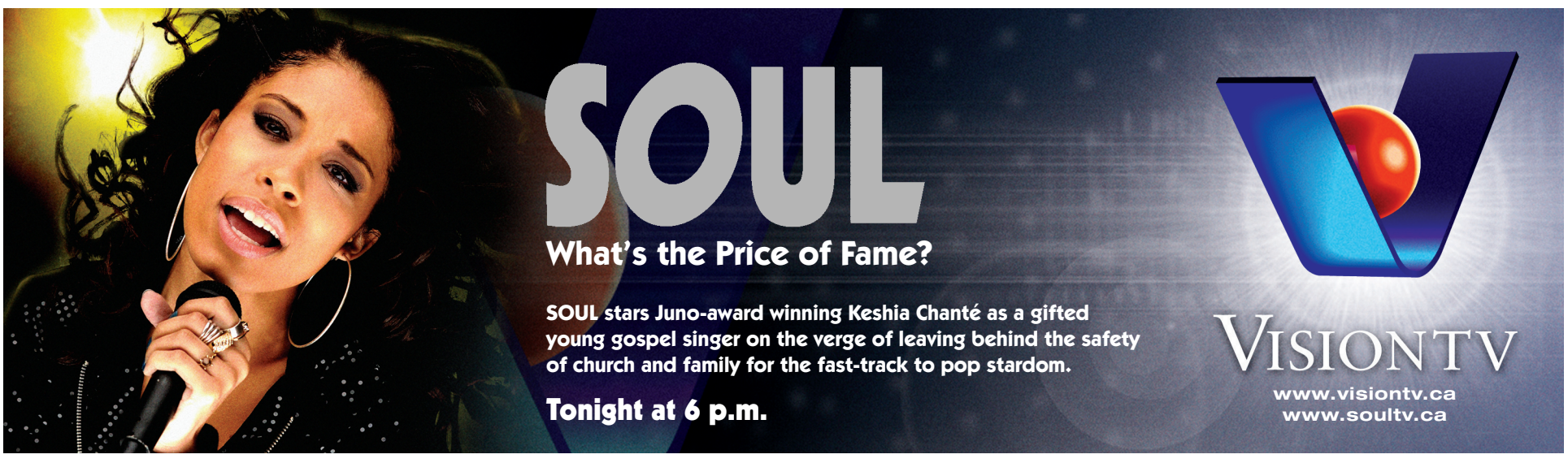
Sex Drive
Director: Sean Anders

IS IT written somewhere that teen comedies have to get even more down-and-dirty when they go to DVD? "Warning: Ruder, Cruder, Nuder" reads the come-on for the two-disc set of this small comic gem, which was plenty rude, crude and nude enough in its multiplex incarnation last fall. But it was also very funny. It steals so shamelessly, from The Sure Thing to American Pie and everything in between, that at times it's almost like watching a teensploitation genre highlights reel. There's even déjà vu in the casting: Josh Zuckerman's virgin du jour Ian Lafferty is like an amalgam of John Cusack and Jason Biggs. The saving grace is that the film's creators know that you're onto them. So they just roll with it and toss in hilarious changeups that make Sex Drive seem fresher than it is.

What Just Happened
Director: Barry Levinson

ROBERT DE NIRO cashes another paycheque as Ben, a film producer on the skids. Ben has seen better times at work and at home (he's in the process of divorcing his second wife, played by Robin Wright Penn), and he's in desperate need of a hit. He thinks he's found it with Fiercely, a thriller starring Sean Penn that has a shot at a berth at Cannes. But Fiercely also takes a lethal shot at a dog in its closing moments. Audience test scores are brutal. The studio boss (Catherine Keener) wants the dog to live. Ben wants to keep both her and the director happy. The jokes are so inside-Hollywood they're claustrophobic.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE



New face of L'Oreal Paris

L'Oreal Paris has named Patrick Dempsey as the new international spokesperson for the brand outside the U.S. Dempsey joins the ranks of Pierce Brosnan and Matthew Fox as a leading man for the company. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Watchmen aims to cash in on hero hits

The $120 million comic book adaptation Watchmen premiered in London on Monday, aiming to repeat the success of superhero hits like Iron Man and The Dark Knight.

The red-carpet launch of the special effects-laden action thriller is the culmination of years of to-ing and fro-ing over scripts, budgets and, finally, a legal dispute between rival Hollywood studios.

Directed by Zack Snyder, whose 300 was a box office winner in 2007, Watchmen is based on a 1986 comic book series of the same name written by Briton Alan Moore and illustrated by compatriot Dave Gibbons.

As with other movies based on his stories, Moore has distanced himself from the film, which hits cinemas in Britain and North America on March 6.

Asked if Moore was likely to watch the movie, deemed "unfilmable" by some in the business, Snyder told Reuters: "Look, you know Alan has famously said 'I don't want anything to do with it' and I just try and respect that as much as I can."

Watchmen is set in an alternate 1985 United States, where the Doomsday Clock charting U.S. tensions with the Soviet Union, is permanently set at five minutes to midnight. When one of his former colleagues is found murdered, masked vigilante Rorschach sets out to uncover a plot to kill and discredit all superheroes, past and present. REUTERS

R rating

- The film contains scenes of sex and violence, earning it an R rating in the United States and meaning under-17s can only see it with an adult guardian, limiting its commercial potential.

Kenya's Style

Kenya Hunt

Read the fashion blog exclusively at metronews.ca/blogs

See complete online movie listings, trailers, reviews and purchase tickets at metronews.ca/movies

	VA	Vu	SC	C		7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
primetime 2/25/09		251	308	3	CBC	Coronation St.	Jeopardy! (N)	The Week the Women Went		Being Erica (N) (CC) (DVS)		CBC News: The National (N)		(:05) The Hour
		255	358	6	JOY	E! News	The Insider	The Biggest Loser (N) (CC)		Party Monsters: Cabo (CC)		Donald Trump: THS		News (N)
		254	-	8	M	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	Omni News: Mandarin Edition		News: Cantonese Edition		Omni News: Punjabi Edition		Metropia
		250	321	9	CTV	etalk (CC)	Hollywood	American Idol Semifinalists perform. (Same-day Tape) (CC)				CSI: NY "No Good Deed" (N)		News (N)
		-	-	10	OMNI	The Daily	Frasier (CC)	Stargate SG-1 "Gamekeeper"		Third Watch (CC)		Scrubs (CC)	Buddhism	New Day
		252	336	11	GTV	Entertainment	ET Canada	Bones (PA) (CC)		Life "Hit Me Baby" (N) (CC)		(:06) Life on Mars (N) (CC)		News (N)
		256	389	12	VI	Instant Star	TMZ (N) (CC)	Lost "316" (CC)		Lost (N) (CC)		(:06) Law & Order "Rumble"		News (CC)
		253	359	13	CITY	Law & Order: SVU		13: Fear Is Real "Boom"		Hates Chris	Friends (CC)	I Love Money (CC)		The List
		-	-	14	CW	Deal-No Deal	Deal-No Deal	Privileged (CC)		90210 (CC)		Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Frasier (CC)
		289	381	15	CBS	Entertainment	The Insider	Old Christine	Gary Unmarr	Criminal Minds (N) (CC)		CSI: NY "No Good Deed" (N)		News (N)
		287	379	16	NBC	Evening Mag.	Inside Edition	The Biggest Loser (CC)		Life "Hit Me Baby" (N) (CC)		Law & Order "Rumble" (CC)		News (N)
		602	568	19	W	Will & Grace	Friends (CC)	Bag	Grocery	How Clean	How Clean	Maxed Out (N)	Maxed Out	Maxed Out
		288	380	21	ABC	Wheel-Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	Lost "316" (CC)		Lost (N) (CC)		(:06) Life on Mars (N) (CC)		KOMO 4 News
		-	-	23	KVOS	M*A*S*H	Seinfeld	The Meteor Man ★★ (1993) Robert Townsend, Marla Gibbs.				King	Still Standing	Scrubs (CC)
		291	383	27	PBS	Steves Europe	Travels-Edge	Golden Apple Awards 2009		America's Ballroom Challenge (Season Premiere) (N) (CC)				MI-5 (CC)
		290	382	28	FOX	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	American Idol Semifinalists perform. (Same-day Tape) (CC)				News (N) (CC)		Family Guy
		-	364	43	PBS	America's Ballroom Challenge		Keeping Up	Being Served	Tavis Smiley	Charlie Rose (N) (CC)		African American Lives 2	
		296	654	64	SBK	Frasier (CC)	Frasier (CC)	Punk'd (CC)	South Park	Cheers (CC)	Half & Half	The Insider	Entertainment	Perfect Pullup
		298	653	65	TLA	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	Privileged (CC)		90210 (CC)		KTLA Prime News (CC)		Friends (CC)
		295	651	66	WGN	WGN News at Nine (N) (CC)		Family Guy	Two/Half Men	According-Jim	Sex and-City	Friends (CC)	Friends (CC)	My Wife-Kids
		297	652	67	WPX	PIX News at Ten Tong. (N)		Two/Half Men	Friends (CC)	Sex and-City	According-Jim	Baby Read	Frasier (CC)	Odd Couple
		199	311	76	STR	News (N)	News		Late Show-Letterman		(:37) The Biggest Loser (N)		Late Late Show	
news		502	390	26	NW	Tropic of Capricorn (CC)		CBC News: The National (N)		CBC News: The National		Tropic of Capricorn (CC)		National
		500	500	33	CNN	Anderson Cooper 360 (CC)				Larry King Live		Anderson Cooper 360 (CC)		Cooper 360
sports		407	419	22	RSP	WHL Hockey Regina Pats at Calgary Hitmen. (Same-day Tape)						Sportsnet Connected (Live)		Sportsnet
		400	400	30	TSN	Curling 2009 Scotties Tournament of Hearts -- Draw 14. From Victoria, B.C. (Live) (CC)						SportsCentre (Live) (CC)		SportsCentre
		411	457	49	OLN	Dog the Bounty Hunter (CC)		Survivorman (CC)		Mantracker	Mantracker	Dog the Bounty Hunter (CC)		Survivorman
		410	403	54	SCR	Score Tonight		Hardcore Hockey Talk		Final Score	Final Score	Final Score	Final Score	Final Score
		417	406	55	SC	Drag Race	Wrecked	Pimp My Ride	Pass Time	Pinks Out	Pinks Out	Pinks	Drag Race	Drag Race
		416	409	144	GLF	Legends	Footballers	Gol TV News	Samba	Foot Brazil	Gol TV News	Paid Program	Gol TV News	Gol TV News
family		552	543	25	YTV	Prank Patrol	Prank Patrol	Malcolm-Mid.	Futurama	Adrenaline	Prank Patrol	Falcon Beach (CC)		Mystery Hnt.
		555	545	50	TEL	Totally Spies	Total Drama	6TEEN (CC)	6TEEN (CC)	Futurama	American Dad	Chicken	Father	Moral Orel
		557	541	51	FAM	Wizards-Place	Han. Montana	Zack & Cody	Latest Buzz	Wizards-Place	Life Derek	Ned's School	Cory in House	Zack & Cody
		553	546	56	TRE	Comfy Couch	Big & Small	Max & Ruby	Babar (CC)	Backyard	Dora-Explorer	Go, Diego, Go!	Franklin	Comfy Couch
cable variety		268	354	5	KNO	Great Northern Wilderness		Man Made Marvels (CC)		The Opera Gala Performances from Baden-Baden Germany. (CC)				
		575	583	20	CMT	Hope & Faith	Hope & Faith	Three Chords	Sessions	Home Imp.	Home Imp.	Reba (CC)	Reba (CC)	Hope & Faith
		570	580	24	MM	MuchNews	Video on Trial	PunchMuch		America's Best Dance Crew		disBand	Born to Be	Spotlight
		600	564	29	H&G	Hid Potential	Really Big Flip	Holmes on Homes (CC)		Property	Unsellable	Mansions	Property Shop	Hid Potential
		615	520	31	A&E	Bounty Hunter	Exterminators	Exterminators	Exterminators	Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter
		628	584	32	SPKE	UFC's Ultimate Fight Night		Ways to Die	Ways to Die	CSI: NY "Live or Let Die"		Disorderly Conduct: Video		Videos
		521	560	34	TLC	Mystery Diagnosis Dizziness.		My Shocking Story (CC)		Smallest People in World		Mystery Diagnosis Dizziness.		Stories of ER
		616	522	39	SHO	The Outer Limits (CC)		About a Girl	About a Girl	The Guard (CC)		Big Love "Kingdom Come"		House (CC)
		620	523	40	BVO	Opera	Broadway	Law & Order "Hitman" (CC)		Without a Trace (CC)		Dish Dogs ★★ (1998) Sean Astin. (CC)		
		601	562	41	SLC	Kimora: Fab	Kardashians	ET Canada	Matchmaker	Chop Shop	Mr. Friday	Trading Spouses		Biggest Loser
		520	505	42	DIS	Mayday "Gimli Glider"		Daily Planet (CC)		MythBusters (CC)		Austin Stevens Adventures		Mayday
		522	506	44	HIS	NCIS "Left for Dead" (CC)		Cities of the Underworld		The 1927 Mississippi Flood		NCIS "Left for Dead" (CC)		Little Rock
		627	528	45	SPC	Pretty Bloody Women. (N)		Stargate SG-1 "Crossroads"		Star Trek: Next Gener.		Star Trek: Voyager (CC)		Star Trek: Ent.
		294	650	47	TBS	House-Payne	House-Payne	Seinfeld	10 Items-Less	Sex and-City	Sex and-City	King Kong ★★★ (2005) (PA) Naomi Watts.		
		619	525	48	TROP	Reality	Ad Persuasion	Family Guy	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Raymond	Family Guy	Married... With	Seinfeld
		603	561	52	FN	Top Chef (Part 2 of 2) (CC)		Restaurant Makeover (CC)		Challenge "Extreme Cakes"		Iron Chef America		Top Chef
		626	547	57	COM	Air Farce	Just for Laughs (CC)		Corner Gas	The Simpsons	South Park	Jon Dore	Martin	Daily Show
		320	621	60	CEN	Journals of Knud		Bonneville (2006) Jessica Lange. Premiere.			(:35) Across the Universe ★★ (2007) Evan Rachel Wood.			
		581	566	101	MTV	The Real World (CC)		MTV Live	After	From G's to Gents (CC)		The Real World (CC)		MTV Live
		261	394	102	V	Tuscany		Poltergeist: The Legacy		The Great White Hope ★★★ (1970) James Earl Jones. (CC)				Paid Program
		-	-	109	MUL	Eight Heroes	Mom's-Upset	Van. Nights	Iranian Pop	Sabor Latino		Sabor Musical	Travel TV	Patrol World

critics' corner

Pretty Bloody

Horror is for guys, right? Made by guys for guys who want to see blood and breasts, right? While the horror genre may be male-dominated, it does have its share of women in roles other than scream queen — director, for example. This new special traces women's contribution to the horror genre with film clips and interviews with directors Mary Lambert ("Pet Sematary") and Katt Shea ("Stripped to Kill"), actress Debbie Rochon and more. 7 PM on SPC

America's Ballroom Challenge

Who needs celebrities? A dance competition is a lot more fun to watch when the contestants are real experts, not D-list "stars." So if you like hot ballroom moves but don't like "Dancing With the Stars," this contest — airing as a two-hour special this year — will be more your style. There's only one actor in the bunch, and she's the co-host: Jean Louisa Kelly ("Yes, Dear"), who calls the action with seven-time U.S. Latin dance champ Ron Montez. 9 PM on PBS

No purchase necessary. Limit one entry per person per day. Only 1 grand prize. Approx. retail value $5,000. Must be Canadian resident who is age of majority in province they reside. Excludes Quebec residents. Contest runs from Wednesday, February 11, 2009 through Tuesday, March 10, 2009. Mathematical skill testing question must be answered correctly. Odds of being selected depend on # of eligible entries received. For full set of Contest rules, visit www.slice.ca.

Dance floor hoot for Hough

Julianne Hough will have a hoot on the dance floor when her boyfriend Chuck Wicks joins her on Dancing with the Stars, which kicks off March 9. "It has been so much fun and really hilarious to see Chuck try to dance," she wrote on her MySpace celebrity blog. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Celebrity Buzz

'Predator' Sam still around: Brit's dad

LEGAL Under her father's care and control, Britney Spears now lives a protected life, her access even to telephones strictly restricted, people.com reports Jamie Spears as testifying in a court hearing Monday.

So when the 27-year-old pop star managed to get a prepaid cellphone recently, her security team confiscated it from her purse while she was at a dance practice. Confronted, she revealed the phone was given to her by someone during a hotel stay, the website reports.

And that person, she disclosed, got it from two men whom her father wants to keep permanently in the singer's troubled past: Ex-manager Sam Lutfi and former boyfriend, paparazzo Adnan Ghalib.

Jamie Spears described the cellphone incident in testimony Monday in a Los Angeles court as he sought to maintain a restraining order against Lutfi, whom Jamie has claimed harassed Britney and has sought to undermine Jamie's legal control over her life.

"When (Lutfi) was in so-called control, she'd lost everything — her kids and career," Jamie said at the hearing. "I believe he's a predator, I believe he's very dangerous to her ... and causes her a lot of anguish and disbelief."

In court papers, Lutfi 34, denies he's been harassing Spears, countering that it's been Spears reaching out to him — not the other way around — by sending him text messages even though court orders forbid her from doing so.

Lutfi does admit that he's passed messages on to her through her hairdresser and others, including Ghalib, 36, but argues that the messages weren't harmful in any way.

But Jamie Spears testified about a series of what he called threatening text messages he received last month from someone with the screen name "citygalin310," who he was later "100 per cent" sure was Lutfi. Lutfi's lawyer denied to People that Lutfi was the user of screen name.

Jamie also revealed why his daughter locked herself in a bathroom with son Jayden, leading to her first hospitalization last year.

"She was told by Lutfi she could have her children for another night," Jamie said. But when a bodyguard for her ex-husband Kevin Federline arrived to get the children, "She didn't want to let her kids go because she thought she could have them for another night," Jamie said.

The hearing will resume today with more testimony from other witnesses.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Hilary the hockey fan

PEOPLE Hilary Duff rows with fans at her boyfriend's hockey games, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The singer and actress regularly attends New York Islanders games to watch her lover and centre Mike Comrie (who's now with the Ottawa Senators), and isn't afraid to confront "intense fans" who abuse her man.

"I like to sit in the audience, you know I don't sit up in a box or anything, and people started to know that I'm sitting there, and they'll be like 'Mike sucks!' Or they try to rile me up and I'm like, 'Hey, watch it! I'll come up there, you know,'" she said. "But I try to not be that crazy girlfriend."

Duff was not a fan of the sport when they first got together in 2007, but has now learned more about it and considers herself a fan.

The 21-year-old star added: "The first couple of games I went to, I'm like, 'These people are nuts.' They are, like, so into it. And then, I got really into it once I started learning about the game."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

GETTY IMAGES PHOTOS

'She could, like, adopt me': Miley on Jolie

PEOPLE Miley Cyrus wants Angelina Jolie to adopt her, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The 17-year-old star is a big fan of Jolie — who already has three adopted children — and hopes the Changeling star will open her home to her soon.

Miley joked: "She is beautiful. She could, like, adopt me."

Jolie and her partner Brad Pitt raise six children together — adopted sons Maddox, seven, and Pax, five, and four-year-old adopted daughter Zahara, along with two-year-old biological daughter Shiloh and seven-month-old twins Knox and Vivienne.

The Hannah Montana actress also admits she was disappointed not to meet Jolie on the red carpet at the Oscars on Sunday.

She said: "I wanted to see Angelina, but I didn't get to see her."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Sean and Madonna's run-in

PEOPLE Apparently there's one person who can get away with making fun of Madonna to her face: Ex-husband Sean Penn.

The two ran into each other at an Oscars after-party, where Madonna commended Penn on his best actor win for Milk earlier in the evening, according to Gatecrasher.

"Thanks," Penn said, before gesturing to Madonna's date, 22-year-old Brazilian model Jesus Luz, and adding, "Another kid already?"

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Busy Oscar night for Robert

PEOPLE Twilight star Robert Pattinson was a busy man on Oscar night.

After presenting during the telecast, he hit the Vanity Fair after-party, where he was spotted having a long, deep conversation with Natalie Portman, according to E! News.

Later in the night, Pattinson apparently shared another hour-long confab with Paris Hilton at a different party.

Spies from the Mirror say Hilton even dragged Pattinson out into the garden for some private time. But by 5 a.m., the young hunk was on his way to the airport to head to Japan.

Busy night, indeed.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Baby rumours false: Portia

RUMOUR Portia de Rossi wants to make sure everyone knows that she is not undergoing in vitro fertilization treatments in an attempt to get pregnant.

"There's a story around right now about me that could not be further from the truth," de Rossi told Access Hollywood.

When asked if she was referring to the pregnancy rumour, she confirmed, "Yes, that was completely made up."

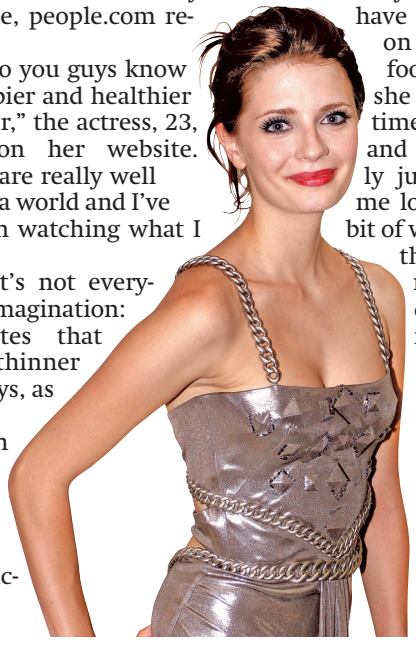
METRO NEWS SERVICES

I'm healthy and happy: Mischa

HEALTH To anyone who thinks Mischa Barton is wasting away, she has a message: Don't worry about me, people.com reports.

"Just so you guys know I'm happier and healthier than ever," the actress, 23, writes on her website. "Things are really well in Mischa world and I've just been watching what I eat.

Still, it's not everybody's imagination: She notes that she is thinner these days, as recent photos in the media have shown, sometimes accompanied by pointed speculation about her health.



"I still love my Pilates and yoga, and have cut back on fatty foods a bit," she says. "My time in India and Paris really just helped me lose a little bit of weight but there's nothing drastic going on."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Heavy Queen Victoria role left impression on Emily

CAREER Emily Blunt dented her head while shooting her new movie, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The actress had to wear a crown for her role as late British monarch Queen Victoria in The Young Victoria and the regal headwear has left a permanent impression on her skull.

"The crown has left a dent in my head which they had to cover up with make-up. It was actually remarkably heavy," she said. Blunt, 26, also revealed she had on-set helpers to remove the weighty headwear in-between takes because it was so uncomfortable to have on.

She added: "Someone would come over to take it off me. It started to wobble soon after you put it on so I had to make all my movements very slow."

It wasn't just the crown that caused Blunt discomfort during shooting. The regal cloak she had to don for the part was also a burden on her body. She explained: "The big cloak was like carrying a bear on my shoulders. I was always overheating with all the different layers."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

The Weather Network
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Today: Rain 80% 6°/ 1°
Thursday: Partly cloudy 8° / 3°
Friday: Showers 60% 7° / 1°

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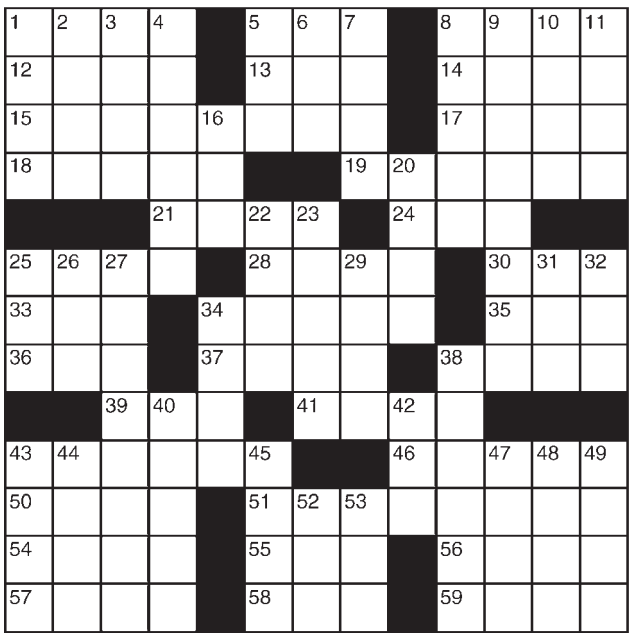
Take Five



Sudoku

HOW TO PLAY: Digits 1 through 9 will appear once in each zone – one zone is an outlined 3x3 grid within the larger puzzle grid. There are nine zones in the puzzle. Do not enter a digit into a box if it already appears elsewhere in the same zone, row across or column down the entire puzzle.

			4	7		3	9	8
				8			5	6
		6				2		
9			2				8	
		4				6		
	3				9			1
		5				8		
6	8			1				
4	9	2		6	7			

Crossword across

1 D.C. types, for short
5 Intention
8 Resistance measures
12 Egress
13 "CSI" evidence
14 Tide type
15 Rite
17 Chills and fever
18 Varlet
19 Cop's badge
21 Erstwhile Peruvian
24 Branch
25 Make fun of
28 Ellipse
30 Discoverer's cry
33 Chicken-king link
34 Rainbow fish
35 Just out
36 — canto
37 Individual
38 Choir's rendition
39 Charged bit
41 Clinton opponent
43 Onesie, e.g.
46 Borgnine autobiography
50 Shaving cream additive
51 Silver-white element
54 Sawyer's pal
55 Intimidate
56 Basilica section
57 Santa's sackful
58 Id counterpart
59 Profits

Crossword down

1 Ahab portrayer
2 The yoke's on them
3 Old Italian money
4 Wonder or Nicks
5 Commotion
6 B&B
7 Baseball's "Say Hey Kid"
8 Where the elated walk
9 Domination
10 Manhandle
11 Hurried
16 Chaps
20 Sentry's command
22 Succotash ingredient
23 Duck
25 Poke
26 Hearty quaff
27 Post-breakup payment
29 Car
31 Height of fashion?
32 Possess
34 Melody
38 Lily Munster's hubby
40 Some golf tourneys
42 Floral neckwear
43 Transport for 54-Across
44 Medley
45 Fight the clock
47 "Unh-unh"
48 "Meet Me — Louis"
49 Spuds' buds
52 Yuletide beverage
53 Pair

PREVIOUS DAY'S CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS:

D	E	M	I	■	B	I	Z	■	S	E	W	S		
I	R	O	N	■	O	R	E	■	A	R	I	A		
P	R	O	V	I	D	E	R	■	L	I	N	K		
■	■	■	A	N	Y	■	O	R	A	N	G	E		
H	A	Y	D	N	■	A	H	E	M	■	■	■		
A	L	O	E	■	P	R	O	F	I	L	E	R		
S	A	Y	■	R	E	M	U	S	■	A	V	E		
P	R	O	M	O	T	E	R	■	D	R	I	P		
■	■	■	A	B	E	D	■	M	E	A	L	S		
U	S	U	R	E	R	■	P	A	D	■	■	■		
K	I	R	K	■	P	R	O	D	U	C	E	R		
E	D	G	E	■	A	Y	E	■	C	I	A	O		
S	E	E	R	■	N	E	T	■	E	A	R	N		

5	9	3	4	6	2	7	1	8
4	6	1	8	7	9	3	2	5
7	2	8	1	5	3	9	4	6
1	8	9	5	3	4	2	6	7
3	7	6	2	8	1	5	9	4
2	4	5	6	9	7	1	8	3
6	3	4	9	2	5	8	7	1
8	5	2	7	1	6	4	3	9
9	1	7	3	4	8	6	5	2

Find today's answers + play more games at metronews.ca

SUDOKU SOLVE TIME:
Under 13 min .....Genius
13-17 min.....Scholar
17-21 min .....Smart
21-25 min .....Not bad
25+ min.....Keep practising

Metro Recipe of the Day

Lamb with Zucchini

INGREDIENTS:
2 tsp (10 ml) sesame oil
1 tbsp (15 ml) lemon juice
1 oz (25 g) fresh ginger, peeled and finely chopped
1/4 cup (50 ml) chopped fresh mint
12 oz (350 g) lean lamb leg, cut into thin slices
1 1/2 lb (700 g) large waxy new potatoes, scrubbed
1⁄4 cup (60 ml) canola oil
2 zucchini, sliced on the diagonal
6 scallions, sliced on the diagonal
1 cup (250 ml) shelled fresh or frozen peas, thawed if necessary
1 tbsp (15 ml) salt-reduced soy sauce
1⁄3 cup (80 ml) diluted salt-reduced beef or vegetable stock
2 tsp (10 ml) honey

METHOD:
1. Whisk sesame oil, lemon juice, half of ginger and 1 tbsp (15 ml) chopped mint in shallow dish. Add lamb and stir, then cover and leave to marinate.
2. Put potatoes in a large pot and pour over boiling water to cover. Bring back to boil, half-cover pot and simmer 12 minutes or until almost tender. Drain and leave until cool enough to handle. Cut across into slices slightly thicker than 1/4 in. (5 mm), then cut slices into sticks. Put into bowl, drizzle with 1 tbsp (15 ml) canola oil and gently toss to coat.
3. Heat 1 tbsp (15 ml) oil in wok or large frying pan. When oil is hot, add lamb and stir-fry over high heat 1 minute or until just browned, but still fairly rare. Remove and set aside.
4. Add remaining oil to wok and, when hot, add sliced zucchini. Stir-fry 1 minute, then add potato sticks. Cook 3-4 minutes, stirring, until lightly browned, taking care not to break up potatoes. Add scallions and cook 1 more minute, stirring.
5. Reduce heat to medium and add peas, soy sauce, stock, honey and remaining ginger. Return lamb with any juices. Stir-fry 2–3 minutes or until liquid is bubbling and everything is tender and hot. Season to taste, scatter remaining chopped mint over top, and serve.

SERVES 4

rd.ca
For nutritional information on this and other great recipes, go to **rd.ca** or check out **Key Ingredients in this month's Reader's Digest, on newsstands now!**

Horoscopes

AVATAR VENUS

ARIES
MARCH 21-APRIL 20
Someone praises your hard work on a wonderful day. Your judgment is good about marriage plans. Senseless humility is a waste of time.

TAURUS
APRIL 21-MAY 21
Nostalgia can't bring anyone back to you. Keep after someone to get more support. Try to remain alert to new possibilities in strange places.

GEMINI
MAY 22-JUNE 21
Someone will be grateful if you're truthful. Innuendo will grow stronger after an incident. You'll change your mind about a friendship.

CANCER
JUNE 22-JULY 22
Don't leave a greedy friend alone. Take notice of a fitness plan and participate. Pamper yourself after breaking horrific habits.

LEO
JULY 23-AUG 23
Avoid any daydreaming that will cause pain. Fatalistic and impractical people will rebel. Someone will stay away from a danger zone.

VIRGO
AUG 24-SEPT 22
Be suspicious of unusual entertainment plans. You'll search for strange noises at home. You'll say good bye after a commotion.

LIBRA
SEPT 23-OCT 23
A suspect makes a bad joke. A man makes a fuss over an important guy. Losing your temper and being malicious is an appalling choice.

SCORPIO
OCT 24-NOV 22
Avoid feeling guilty when visiting. Smile when a happy female confesses. The last thing you expect will be a divine experience.

SAGITTARIUS
NOV 23-DEC 21
An elder needs a romantic tryst. An adventurous person will revive your hopes. A shamed guy calls for an update.

CAPRICORN
DEC 22-JAN 20
A truthful person will come clean. Don't give up when someone makes an emotional impact. A competent person will complete a task.

AQUARIUS
JAN 21-FEB 18
A friend performs an unusual act. A lonely woman speaks of true love. A fortunate man is forced to take risks.

PISCES
FEB 19-MARCH 20
An old jester will be given something. Make plans with slacker who loves you. Tell your story to a younger guy.

WORDY GURDY®

BY TRICKY RICKY KANE

Every answer is a rhyming pair of words (like FAT CAT and DOUBLE TROUBLE), and they will fit in the letter squares. The number after the definition tells you how many syllables in each word.

1. Brooch made of toy soldier metal (Sn) (1)
2. Grasp Olympics medal metal (Au) (1)
3. Reduce the size of a metal in brass (Zn) (1)
4. Element #5 (B) nincompoop (2)
5. Reaping tool made of meteor metal (Ni) (2)
6. Big lie about a metal in pennies (Cu) (2)
7. Brutish oxygen (O) discoverer or "90210" actor Jason (2)

ANSWERS
1. TIN PIN 2. HOLD GOLD 3. SHRINK ZINC 4. BORON MORON
5. NICKEL SICKLE 6. COPPER WHOPPER 7. BEASTLY PRIESTLEY

2-25-09

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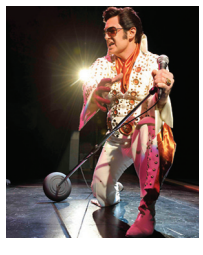
PLAYHOUSE THEATRE COMPANY
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This day in history

FEB. 25, 1901: J.P. Morgan incorporates the United States Steel Corporation.
FEB. 25, 1932: Adolf Hitler obtains German citizenship by naturalization, which allows him to run in the 1932 election for Reichspräsident.
FEB. 25, 1971: The first unit of the Pickering Nuclear Generating Station, first commercial nuclear power station in Canada, goes online.
FEB. 25, 1992: Khojaly massacre: About 613 civilians killed by Armenian armed forces during the conflict in Nagorno-Karabakh region of Azerbaijan.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

IMAGINE THIS IS YOUR LOVED ONE

Gordon Campbell has a plan that will limit your ability to protect the people you love

The BC Government wants to radically change the rules for civil courts – where innocent victims are sometimes forced to go for justice and fair compensation for their injuries.

Premier Campbell could approve these radical moves **without even bringing in legislation for debate and a vote.**

And it could all be done without consulting you. Extensive and dramatic rule changes are being proposed by a secretive committee of handpicked corporate lawyers and a few judges. Why are they afraid to hold open public hearings?

You need to strongly oppose these changes! They have already been rejected by the Consumers' Association of Canada, the Trial Lawyers Association of BC and the members of the Law Society of British Columbia, who voted against the changes – by an overwhelming 6-to-1 margin – at the society's annual general meeting last September.

THE PROPOSED CHANGES WILL MAKE COURT CASES TAKE LONGER & COST MORE

They will help big institutions, insurance companies and large corporations

They will hurt ordinary consumers and families…

Here is what you can do to help stop the changes to the rules of civil court:

Go to www.protectingjusticeforbc.org for more information, and send Premier Campbell, Attorney General Wally Oppal and your local MLA a message. Tell them you want full public consultation before any changes are made to the rules of civil justice (or use the coupon below).

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PROTECTING justice FOR BC

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Messages will be forwarded to Premier Gordon Campbell, Attorney-General Wally Oppal and your local MLA. Mail or fax to: Protecting Justice for BC c/o Trial Lawyers Association of BC, Suite 1111- 1100 Melville Street, Vancouver BC V6E 4A6 Fax: 604-682-0373

WWW.WORKINGDESIGN.NET 2009

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